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COMMENT OF THE DAY

Moving Forward

MR Lyttelton's rejection of the 12,000-signature petition for elected representatives to the Legislative Council and the introduction on the same day of a Bill to extend the Urban Council voting franchise provide an interesting, though probably accidental coincidence. The dis-appointment which the ardent reformists who sponsored the petition feel over Mr Lyttelton's decision may be somewhat assuaged by Government's latest move to meet popular wishes for increasing the Urban Council electorate. It is, at any rate, a move in the right direction, and when the Bill becomes effective candidates elected to the Council will be entitled to feel that they represent to a greater degree the articulate and civic-conscious sections of the community. Extension of the franchise may also be the immediate forerunner of increased Urban Council powers. A correlated question also raised is that of enlarging still further the composition of the Council, for if it is to be endowed with added responsibilities it will most certainly need more members to share in the laborious but highly important select committee work.

THERE can be no serious dispute with Government's proposals for enlarging the electorate, nor of the additional classes of voters of which it is intended shall come on the register. In one respect Government has gone further than the original proposal put forward by members of the Urban Council—not only will registered teachers be enfranchised, but also teachers in exempted schools. And to give the vote to the majority of civil servants is logical, particularly as many of them pay salary taxes. But the provision which will probably receive the most popular approval is the enfranchisement of everybody who has paid salaries tax or personal income tax for four years. This is the furthest yet that Government has gone towards applying the principle of representation through taxation, and no one will deny its validity or appropriateness. The signs are that surely, if a little slowly, the Urban Council is moving towards its ultimate objective—that of attaining the status of a municipal body.

BERIA TO GO ON TRIAL

Merkulov Dismissed

Moscow, Dec. 16. V. N. Merkulov, the minister named in the State Prosecutor's statement on Beria has since been dismissed from the office of Minister of State Control, newspapers here disclosed today.

The State Prosecutor's statement said Beria and his associates "had murdered people who they thought might expose them."

They had killed: M. S. Kedrov, a member of the party from 1902, a former member of the Presidium of the All-Russian Extraordinary Commission (Vecheka) and a member of the GPU Collegium under Dzerzhinsky.

The statement on Merkulov said: "In connection with the fact that the prosecutor disclosed criminal anti-state actions of V. N. Merkulov during the period of his work in the organ of the MGB (Interior Ministry) and the MVD (Ministry of State Security) of the USSR, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, on September 17, 1953, dismissed V. N. Merkulov from the post of Minister of State Control of the USSR."—Reuter.

Planned To Overthrow Soviet Regime Says Indictment SIX OTHER MEN CHARGED

Paris, Dec. 16.

The trial of former Soviet Minister of the Interior, Lavrenti Beria, dreaded chief of Russia's far-flung network of secret police and, at one time, reckoned to be second only to Stalin in power, will take place shortly, the official Tass agency reported tonight after publishing a summary of the indictment against the former minister, who was placed under arrest shortly after the assumption of power by the present Soviet Premier, Georgi Malenkov.

The Tass summary, which discounted all rumours that Beria had escaped out of Soviet Russia, said that the Soviet judicial authorities had investigated the activities of the "traitor Beria" and had found that he had planned to overthrow the Soviet regime and to restore capitalism.

The conclusion of their investigations, said Tass, had revealed that Beria had plotted to set up an organisation to assume control of the Soviet Union—an organisation directed by his Ministry of the Interior which would work actively, through other branches throughout the Soviet Union, against the Communist Party and the government of the Soviet Union.

Beria, the report continued, serving the interests of foreign capital, intended to place the Ministry of the Interior above the interests of the government and party so as to give him an opportunity to seize power and to liquidate the Soviet workers and peasants in order to restore capitalism and to re-establish the bourgeoisie in power in the country.

Tass said that, on June 26, 1953, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet had examined a communication from the Council of Ministers "on the criminal activities of Lavrenti Beria as an agent of foreign capital and his activities to sabotage the Soviet State."

Tass added that the Supreme Soviet then decided to depose Beria from his post as Vice-Premier as well as from his position as Minister of the Interior of the Soviet Union in order to bring him to trial.

The agency added that the Supreme Soviet on August 8, 1953, had ratified the decree of the Presidium dated June 26, 1953.

ALLEGED ACCOMPLICES

Linked with Beria in his "criminal activities," the indictment continued, in the organs of the NKVD and the MVD (secret police) were V. N. Merkulov, former Minister of Security in the Soviet Union and recently, the Minister of State Control. Others indicted with Beria were: Vassily Dekanozov, former Director of a section of the NKVD and recently Minister of the Interior of Georgia, as well as a deputy to the People's Commissar of Internal Affairs in Georgia; V. G. Kaboulou, former deputy to the People's Commissar of Internal Affairs in Georgia and more recently a director of a section of the Ministry of the Interior; P. Mechik, former director of a section of the NKVD, and recently Minister of the Interior in the Ukraine; and N. Vlodzimirski, former director of the Investigation Section of the Ministry of the Interior.

GUilty PLEA

Tass revealed in a report that followed the main details of the summary that Beria and his accomplices had pleaded guilty to the indictment.

The indictment charged Beria and the others indicted with him of "carefully masking" for many years their "criminal activities."

Tass said that, after the death of Stalin, when the "reactionary imperialist forces" were intensifying their activities to undermine the Soviet state, Beria quickened his actions to achieve "his criminal ends."

It accused him of using the organization of the Ministry of the Interior to seize power and this, continued the indictment, had permitted the unmasking, in the shortest possible time of the true intentions of this "enemy to the country."

Necessary and decisive measures were then taken to put an end to "his traitorous activities," the indictment continued.

The indictment accused Beria of putting "members of his



LAVRENTI BERIA

group of conspirators" in important posts in the Ministry of the Interior from March, 1953, and these conspirators had immediately started to persecute "honest workers" in the Ministry, who had refused to "execute the criminal orders of Beria and his gang."

SABOTAGE CHARGE

The indictment further accused Beria of attempting to sabotage collective farms and to undermine other branches of Soviet life.

In 1915, said the indictment, tracing Beria's record in the Soviet Union, Beria had committed treason by agreeing to work for the "counter-revolutionary intelligence services of Azerbaijan" which, it was claimed, was operating under British control.

In 1920, the indictment continued, Beria committed a new act of treason in Georgia by "entering secretly into contact with Georgian Menshevik intelligence services, which was a subsidiary of the British intelligence service."

Lacking any support within the USSR, said the indictment, Beria and his accomplices based all their criminal plans in the "support of the reactionary imperialist forces abroad." Investigation had established, said the summary, that Beria had already established contacts with foreign intelligence during the civil war.

In the years following that act of treason, continued the indictment, Beria maintained and broadened his "secret and criminal relations with the foreign intelligence services, and with spies sent by them."

These spies, said the indictment, were sometimes protected by Beria from being discovered.

SECRET RELATIONS

The indictment continued: "As a traitor to his country, and as a spy sold to the foreign intelligence services, Beria, during the time of his criminal activities, and with the aid of his accomplices, Georgian emigres, Mensheviks and other counter-revolutionaries, maintained secret relations with the agents of several foreign intelligence services."

"Masking and carefully hiding his criminal past, as well as his relations with foreign intelligence services," the indictment continued, "Beria adopted as his main method cunning, intrigues, provocations and other activities against honest workers, against workers he found in his way preventing his carrying out his hostile intentions to the Soviet State in order to assume power."

The indictment went on: "Having succeeded, thanks to these criminal methods, in taking important posts in Trans-Caucasia, in Georgia and, later, in the Ministry of the Interior of the USSR with the criminal plan of seizing power, Beria and his accomplices devoted themselves to settling accounts with persons who troubled them, not stopping at even the most despicable action, and basely deceiving the party and government."

"CAREERIST AIMS"

Among the charges levelled against Beria was the assassination of Kedrov, a member of the Communist Party since 1902.

Tass said that, in pursuit of his "careerist aims," Beria and his accomplices had intrigued against an eminent member of the Party and the Soviet government, Sergei Orjenikidze, in order to "saw to it" that they would prevent him from pursuing his career.

The agency said that the investigation had shown that Beria and his accomplices had murdered Kedrov because they had cause to suspect Kedrov of possessing material on Beria's past criminal record.

The indictment also levelled the charge of attempting to weaken the defence potential of the Soviet Union against Beria.

Beria was accused of murdering Orjenikidze and several others in order to mask their "evil designs."

Tass revealed that the Beria case would be examined at a special session of the Supreme Court of the Soviet Union, but no date was mentioned for the hearing.—France-Press.

Collision Kills 1, Injures 13

Tokyo, Dec. 17.

One passenger was killed and 13 passengers injured in a three-way crash involving a Japanese express train, a United States Army truck, and a jeep last night at Fukuoka, Japanese National Police reported today.

The crash resulted when the jeep stopped after knocking down a pedestrian who later died in hospital.

The locomotive, a coal and water car, and the first passenger coach of the 13-car express overturned as a result of the collision.

The army truck, en route to Fukuoka air base from Ashiya, had landed on the tracks in the path of the oncoming train minutes earlier after going over an embankment to avoid hitting a jeep.

Operation of both up and down trains on the line was suspended as a result of the accident, but railway authorities said the line would be cleared today.—Reuter.



SHARING OF ATOMIC SECRETS

Mr Eisenhower's Proposition

Washington, Dec. 16. President Eisenhower today called for revision of atomic secrecy legislation to permit the United States to share the use of actual atomic weapons as well as atomic information with its North Atlantic Allies.

He elaborated at his weekly press conference on the statement by the Secretary of Defense, Mr Charles E. Wilson, to the North Atlantic Council yesterday that the United States was seeking legislative permission to share "pertinent information on nuclear and other new weapons."

Existing legislation not only forbids the exchange of atomic information between the United States and its Allies but prevents atomic bombs and shells from being placed under the command of non-American officers within the NATO Supreme Command.

Mr Eisenhower made it clear today that he wanted the law amended in such a way that these atomic weapons could be made available to the United States Allied Commands freely as required by the military necessities of defending any line set for itself by NATO.

MAKES DISTINCTION

He emphasised however that he was not promising to share with United States Allies the scientific processes of nuclear fission or the building of atomic weapons.

The President said he was referring to a position where NATO Allies and the United States were defending the integrity of a line that had to be held.

In that case, it would be foolish to think that the United States could not—and must not—share some particular kind of information with its Allies.

He added that they would be dependent upon this same kind of support as the United States would.

When correspondents pointed out to the President that some press reports of Mr Wilson's statement in Paris had implied that the United States was proposing actually to share atomic weapons with her Allies or to put these weapons in Allied hands, Mr Eisenhower replied this would depend upon the circumstances at the time.—Reuter.

Now Under Arrest

Railways Strike Cancelled UNION CHIEFS' DECISION

London, Dec. 16.

British rail union chiefs tonight cancelled a national strike of 400,000 key workers, called for midnight next Sunday.

They took this action immediately they received a firm promise of all-round pay rises from executives of the state-owned railways.

The terms of the agreement were expected to be announced in the House of Commons later tonight by Sir Walter Monckton, the 62-year-old Minister of Labour, who brought the two sides together after last Saturday's strike call, and has kept negotiations in progress since Monday.

Tonight's settlement was reached after almost five hours of talks at the Ministry of Labour between the employing body, the British Transport Commission, and leaders of Britain's three major rail unions. The settlement involves more than 500,000 rail workers accepting a recent award of an extra four shillings sterling a week per man which they rejected as "dismal and low."

But it is linked with a firm promise by the Commission to revise the whole wage structure of railway employment in the New Year.

This revision will mean a percentage pay increase additional to the four shillings a week awarded by an independent tribunal and accepted by the Commission.—Reuter.

NYK Win On Appeal

Singapore, Dec. 16.

The Singapore Court of Appeal today reversed a high court judgment which held that the Nippon Yusen Kaisha Shipping Line was liable to pay damage to a Singapore ship pilot.

Capt. W. Balch, the pilot, was injured when boarding the company's Mutsu Maru, to pilot the ship into Singapore harbour. Balch, who was injured when the ship's gangway collapsed, sued for special damages amounting to \$544,000 and unspecified damages.

However, no award had been made when the case came up to the appeal court last September. The appeal court today upheld the doctrine of common employment and ruled that the pilot was engaged in common work with the rest of the ship's crew when he accepted the piloting assignment.

As such, ruled the court, he undertook the risk of negligence on the part of his fellow servants and was not entitled to damages.—France-Press.

Man Lives In Bottle With Snake

Lin, Dec. 16.

Rayo, a 51-year-old Austrian "fakir," who has lived in a bottle with a poisonous snake for more than a year, will leave it next Sunday.

Rayo, whose real name is Rudolf Schmidt, was put into the seven feet by three feet bottle here on December 13, 1952. Mounted on a special roller, he has since visited more than 100 towns during a 11,184-mile European tour.

Although he has lost about 60 lbs. in weight, his general health was reported to be good. (Contd. on Back Page, Col. 2)

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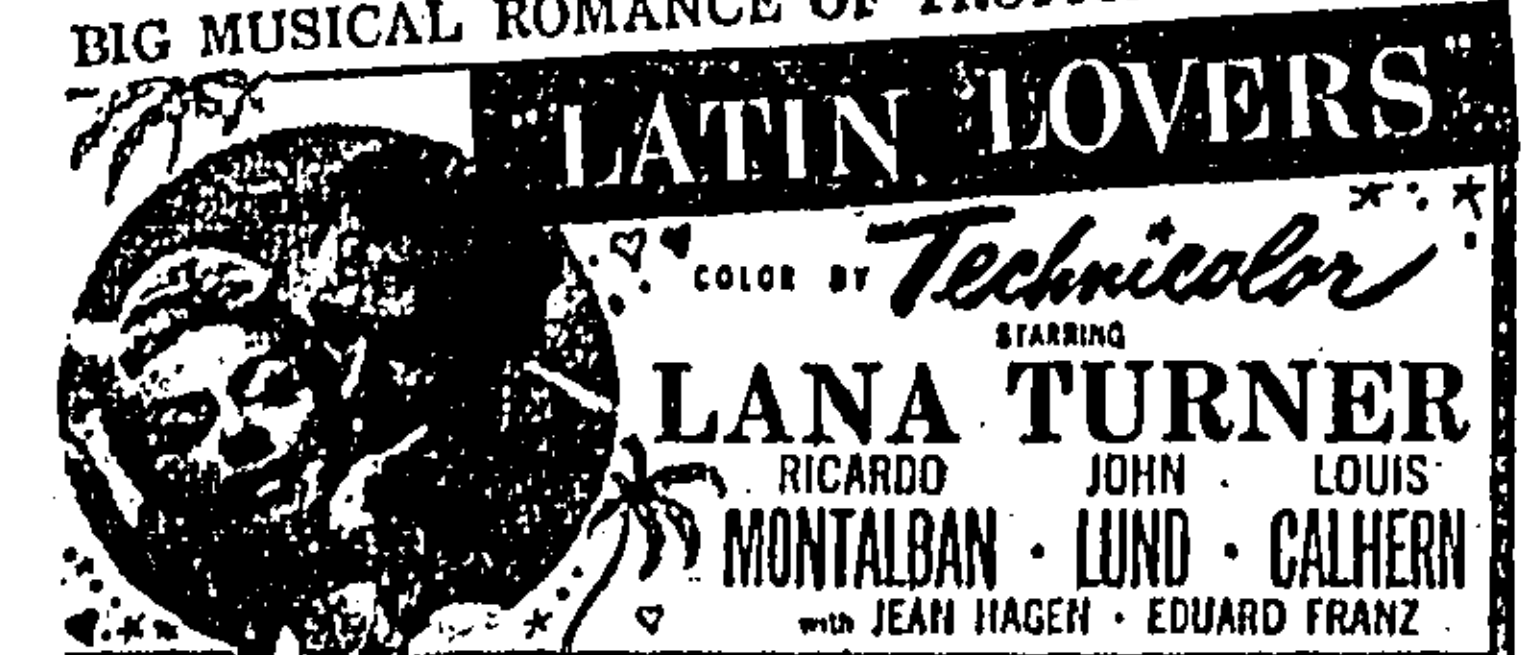
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MORE JAP GLASS FOR HONGKONG

Tokyo, Dec. 17. Another shipment of Japanese glass is on the way to Hongkong as a test to see how much and how soon the Japanese glass industry can regain the ground it once held in that British colony.

Now the Hongkong market is dominated by European glass, a spokesman of the Asahi Glass Company was quoted by the Jiji news agency as saying.

Sheet glass, which was shipped to Hongkong recently, was the product of the Asahi Glass and Nihon Glass companies.

The spokesman, however, remarked that since European glass makers had already established a strong bridgehead on the Hongkong market, and shipments of Japanese sheet glass to Hongkong are quite limited, recent shipments may not prove effective in recovering lost ground. — China Mail Special.

Eisenhower Lauds Nixon

Washington, Dec. 16. President Dwight Eisenhower said at his press conference today that Vice-President and Mrs. Richard Nixon had admirably represented the United States during the President's 10-week study tour of 10 Pacific, Asian and African countries.

The President said that all reports received through diplomatic and press channels were unanimous in testifying to the success of Mr. Nixon's mission.

He added that he did not know if the Vice-President would make public his impressions of his tour. — France-Press.

German War Criminals Released

Bonn, Dec. 16.

The Allied occupation authorities today released 105 Germans from prison under the High Commission Christmas amnesty. The British released nine, the French 32 and the Americans 64.

Five men convicted of war crimes were included in the amnesty.

The British authorities set free one of the war criminals—Hans Paudeit, who was sentenced to death in 1948 for ill treatment of Allied nations in a German war-time labour camp, but whose punishment was later commuted to life imprisonment and then to ten years.

The other four war criminals, including former Field Marshal Georg von Kuechler, who was granted medical parole last February.

Von Kuechler, 72, was sentenced in October, 1948 to 20 years' imprisonment for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The other one hundred freed Germans were serving sentences for violating occupation laws. — Reuter.

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BIDAULT QUESTIONED**North America And Europe Share The Same Destiny And Are Indivisible**

Paris, Dec. 16.

French Foreign Minister, M. Georges Bidault, who, tomorrow, will be a candidate for the Presidency of the French Republic, today told a crowded newspaper conference at the close of the North Atlantic Council sessions here that Europe and North America shared the same destiny and should realise that they were members of an indivisible community.

Reporting, as President of the North Atlantic Council, on the sessions just concluded, M. Bidault disappointed the 800 or so pressmen present when he declined to answer questions and urged them to display coolness and calmness in writing about the problems of NATO.

This was an indirect reference to the recent press conference of the American Secretary of State, Mr. John Foster Dulles, in which he threatened a drastic change in American policy if the European Defence Community was not formed soon and which was seized upon by newspapers as a sensational story.

M. Bidault, declining to reply to questions on the grounds that he was President of the NATO Council, said that Mr. Dulles' statement "had caused some debate, which had provoked certain declarations." He refused to expand on the subject.

Dealing with the NATO sessions, the French Foreign Minister stated that discussion of the different aspects of the international scene had confirmed the identity of views of NATO members. This, he said, was a great encouragement for the coming negotiations with the Soviet Union.

COMMON MEMBERS

M. Bidault added that what had dominated the debates was the idea that the Atlantic Alliance was required to unite more intimately the two continents of North America and Europe, which were associated together.

He said that North Americans and Europeans shared the same destiny and should realise this fact as common members of an indivisible community.

The Foreign Minister continued that the problems of the European Defence Community were tackled in relation to the development of the Atlantic alliance and within the framework of the latter.

M. Bidault stressed the fact that there had been an identity of views on various aspects of the international situation, and particularly regarding relations with the Soviet bloc. This had made it possible to embark with confidence on the necessarily difficult negotiations to be undertaken with the Soviet Union.

INT'L SITUATION

He said that the NATO Council discussions had to take into account the fact that the present international situation might be existing for many, long years and that, consequently, their effort would have to be framed so that it was capable of lasting.

M. Bidault added that he wanted to emphasise the fact that NATO members had affirmed their resolve constantly to improve the means for more effectively and more rationally using the resources at their disposal. This would need, he added, a co-ordination of efforts,

both affecting the strategic conception and the employment of forces and the production of their arms.

The French Foreign Minister said that he was convinced substantial progress could be achieved in all these domains.

Referring to the need for closer collaboration between North America and Europe, M. Bidault said that these two worlds shared the same destiny.

Dealing with the European Defence Community, M. Bidault said that discussion of this subject within the framework of the Atlantic Alliance was a principle that had been recognised at Ottawa in 1951 and which it was good to re-affirm today.

In conclusion, M. Bidault expressed his confidence that NATO determination and a realisation of common interests would triumph over the difficulties and vicissitudes of the times.

He made a plea for unity which would ensure their success in a common defence of the peace. — France-Press.

13th Century

Cloister

Rheims, Dec. 16.

Workmen repairing the Basilica of Saint-Remy, oldest Church here, have uncovered a beautifully preserved 13th century cloister.

It was uncovered after being walled up for seven centuries in a forgotten corner of the old church, which is now a museum.

Architectural experts said that the cloister dates from about the year 1250 and added that its columns are topped with the finest Roman-type cornices ever found in France. — United Press.

Paris, Dec. 16.

The Public Works Department has offered a pre-Christmas gift to its "forgotten men"—the sewer cleaners.

It is a transparent manhole cover.

The Department said it will bring some rays of sunshine into the sewer men's "dark, dank lives." — United Press.

COMMENTS ON FRANCE'S RECOVERY

Paris, Dec. 16.

The Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs, Mr. Edgar Faure, declared in a statement to the press today that "France, threatened up to now by a galloping consumption — inflation — or by perilous anaemia — recession — must make her recovery with care."

He noted that for the first time in a long time the French Treasury would arrive at the end of a financial year and the beginning of another calm year.

He said that no financial difficulties were being encountered recently to cope with the current needs. He pointed out that "we are honouring the first security date for paying back the advances from the Bank of France without it causing us the slightest worry."

He cautioned, however, that the "exceptionally favourable situation did not mean that France's great economic problems had been solved." — France-Press.

Shipbuilding

In France

Paris, Dec. 16.

French shipbuilders chalked up an excellent production year, exceeding last year's launchings and number of ships under construction through falling behind in deliveries to the extent of 34,000 gross tons.

Production figures were released in a year-end estimate of private shipbuilding in France by the French Shipbuilders' Association.

Figures showed this year's deliveries, in gross tons, stood at 103,150, as against 227,150 in 1952, with 218,970 launches as against 146,970, and 227,740 under construction against 180,740. — United Press.

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BY MICHAEL CURRIE

ULBRICHT HOPEFUL

Outcome Of Big Four Foreign Ministers' Talks

Berlin, Dec. 16.

Herr Walter Ulbricht, Acting Premier of East Germany, who is also First Secretary of the East German Communist Party, gave an interview last night to Reuter's Berlin correspondent on the forthcoming four-power conference and the German question.

It was his first interview with a Western correspondent for several years. It took place in the Premier's office in the Eastern sector. The only portrait in the office where the meeting took place was a big painting of Lenin hanging on a side wall.

Herr Ulbricht, in an elegant black striped suit, had before him a red leather bound writing pad with a type-written script of questions and answers. The correspondent had not put any detailed questions in his letter, but indicated the trend of things he wanted to ask. The Ulbricht script and its questions corresponded to and somewhat extended the questions the correspondent had in mind.

Asked whether he expected the four-power conference in Berlin to make progress towards reaching a peaceful solution of the German problem, Herr Ulbricht replied that he did so.

EDC FORMATION
During the interview he also suggested that Britain and France could contribute to a lessening of international tension by dropping the plan for the European Defence Community.

The formation of the EDC means the creation of a front in the middle of Europe and would lead to war. In this process not only West Germany would be destroyed but also France and England would have to suffer under the consequences of an aggression by German militarism.

If the representatives of France and Britain would contribute to a lessening of international tension by dropping the plan for the "European Defence Community," this would considerably facilitate the peaceful solution of the German question.

Question: How do you evaluate the chances of all-German talks, as suggested repeatedly by the Government of the German Democratic Republic, when you take into account that a change in their rejection by the West German Government can hardly be expected?

CHRISTIAN POPULATION
Answer: Your question is put too narrowly. You must take into consideration the development in West Germany. Adenauer—cheated—wide circles of the population before the September 6 (West German) election and came up openly after September 6 with his aggressive programme.

This contributed to unity in the struggle against remilitarisation not only among the broad masses of trade unionists but also in

wide circles of the Christian population.

The very abruptness of the reappearance of German militarism will open the eyes of wide circles in West Germany to the policy of the Adenauer Government and German militarism, which is threatening the German people and the other peoples. And this will and must lead to a change in the distribution of political strength in West Germany.

The interview ran as follows: **Question:** What motives does the Government of the German Democratic Republic consider feasible for the achievement of German unity?

Answer: The Volkskammer (lower house of the East German Parliament) and Premier Otto Grotewohl have on several occasions made proposals having an understanding between representatives of the German Democratic Republic and West Germany.

PROVISIONAL GOVT
I declared in the government declaration of November 25, 1953 that the existence of two states in Germany necessitates the formation of a provisional government, by way of negotiations between representatives of West Germany and representatives of the German Democratic Republic, and agreement on the conditions for all-German elections. Whoever wants the reunification of Germany must negotiate. It is a fact that two states exist in Germany as a result of the split of the country, a fact we regret very much.

Question: How does the East German Government intend to overcome the problem of any negotiations with the West German Government?

Answer: The rejection of joint talks by the Adenauer Government confirms in fact that the Adenauer Government fear all-German free elections. For them the slogan "All-German Elections" is only a means of camouflage for the civil war and the war they are planning with the aid of the so-called "European Defence Community."

It would be a mistake to assume that the fate of Germany will be decided by revengeful politicians and militarists in Bonn. A decisive influence will be exerted by the workers and the peace-loving population.

FREE PLEBISCITE
If one were to conduct a free plebiscite in the whole of Germany today on the EDC or a peace treaty with Germany, then the majority of the people would declare themselves even today for a peace treaty and for negotiations between representatives of West Germany and the German Democratic Republic in the interests of a joint representation for a peace treaty. The majority of the German people favours all-German talks especially now, since only they can make possible an all-German representation at the time of the four-power conference.

Question: Do you expect the four-power foreign ministers' conference in Berlin to make progress towards reaching a peaceful solution of the German question?

Answer: My perfectly clear answer to this question is "Ja, wohl!" (an emphatic yes). We hope that the peoples of Europe have not forgotten the crimes of German militarism in the second world war and understand that the Adenauer Government is renewing the Hitlerite conception of the "European new order." It is now called the "European Defence Community."—Reuter.

'IKE' FOR NEWS HEADLINES
Washington, Dec. 16.
Note for newspaper headline writers: President Eisenhower does not mind if they refer to him as "Ike."

President Eisenhower smiled broadly when a reporter raised the question today at the President's weekly news conference. The reporter observed that "Ike" is much easier to fit into headlines than "Eisenhower."

The President said of course he did not mind, that he has answered to the nickname all his life and that his personal opinion is that it does not take from the dignity of his high office.—United Press.

Whisky Galore

London, Dec. 16.
Christmas stocks of Scotch whisky shipped overseas during October brought export totals to the highest 10-month figure ever at 10,800,000 gallons, it was announced. The whisky brought in £38,500,000. Total 1953 exports are expected to reach 15,500,000 gallons—or about three-quarters of Britain's whisky output.—United Press.

Pakistan Navy

Karachi, Dec. 16.
Pakistan Premier Mohammed Ali said here today that Pakistan proposed to develop her navy as rapidly as her resources would permit.

Speaking at a prize-giving ceremony after an inter-ship technical competition, he said that it was sufficient to look at the map to see how necessary a strong navy was to Pakistan.—France-Press.

Fort Belvedere To Be Rented To Private Persons

London, Dec. 16.

Buckingham Palace has announced that gray turreted Fort Belvedere where in loneliness King Edward VIII reached his tormented decision to abdicate for love, will be rented out to private tenants.

The castle now is semi-derelict, standing dark and unoccupied in the grounds of historic Windsor Castle, 40 miles west of London, like some crumbling monument to a King's sadness.

The Buckingham Palace announcement said that Queen Elizabeth II—Edward's niece—had decided that the fort was no longer needed as a "grace and favour" residence for the Royal Family and Household, and so was being returned to the Commissioners for Crown Lands to be rented to private citizens.

The world spotlight beat fiercely around the weather-beaten fort while the king who is now the Duke of Windsor pondered his enormous decision on whether to renounce the throne of his fathers for the American woman he loved.

"The fort has been more than a home; it has been a way of life for me," the Duke said in recalling his departure from it to voluntary exile with his bride.

A SYMBOL

But it was also a way of life for the whole of Britain during his eight years' occupancy—the home and the symbol of the supposedly happy bachelor existence of the young Prince of Wales.

Rain has seeped now through the castle's roof where thieves have stolen the lead covering. Dry rot has affected the interior and rats have made it their playground. A recent Ministry of Works estimate said that it would take thousands of pounds to make it habitable again.

The house was at one time suggested as a possible home for Princess Margaret, and has been on the list of Royal "grace and favour" residences for many years.

RENT FREE

This meant that in theory it could be granted by the Queen to any member of her Household or family as a rent-free home—but it has remained vacant since the Duke abdicated and departed 17 years ago.

CHINA'S ADMISSION TO UN?
New York, Dec. 16.
Mr. Selwyn Lloyd, British Minister of State, said in an interview with the magazine Newsweek published today that it would be a mistake to think that the fact that the Central People's Government is the effective Government of China.

Mr. Lloyd added: "To admit that does not mean that we approve of the Chinese Communist recognition of one state by another, in the British view, does not mean approval. The worse your relations are with a country the more need there is for normal diplomatic channels to handle the business between you."

"INAPPROPRIATE"
For that reason Britain believed that Communist China should eventually be admitted to the United Nations, but admission would be "inappropriate" as long as there was no armistice in Korea.

Mr. Lloyd said it was the British Government's view that when Communist China had given some evidence of peaceful intentions "we say the situation must be considered."

"We feel that the fact must be faced that the United Nations cannot be a world organisation if you exclude permanently a Government ruling several hundred million Asians. To put it shortly, we do not regard recognition of a Government on admission to the United Nations as a reward for good conduct."—Reuter.

AMERICAN CHILDREN GET SOFT

Washington, Dec. 16.
The National Education Association said that automobiles, school buses and elevators have so softened American children that they are now less physically fit than European youngsters.

The nation's children get so little exercise that the lack of it is "comparable to a vitamin deficiency," according to a study made by the NEA's Association for Health, Physical Education and Recreation.

The report said that the "highly mechanized society of urban communities has caused American children to come second best in physical fitness as compared with European children."—United Press.

American Business Outlook

Washington, Dec. 16.
The year-end flow of statements and economic forecasts has reflected official optimism concerning the inter-American business outlook for 1954.

The United States will have a sustained purchasing power in the new year, as indicated by the fact that total personal income in the January-October period of 1953 was at an annual rate of \$284,500,000,000, which was six percent above the same period of 1952.

This trend completely discredited predictions of a year ago that a business recession was imminent. In the United States, and a large majority of economists now believe that sustained prosperity is certain through the first half of 1954 and probably thereafter.

Estimates of permanent trends will obviously depend upon Congressional action on President Eisenhower's basic programmes, including the liberalisation of foreign trade policy; and upon the course of the East-versus-West struggle.—United Press.

Rats Killed Themselves

Trowbridge, England, Dec. 16.
Trowbridge Urban Council members said that when they summoned their rat-catcher he arrived to find the job already done for him.

The rats had eaten their way into a shed standing in the Council's yard and devoured a large quantity of poison stored there.

The rat-catcher found the shelves and floor littered with the dead pests.—United Press.

Safety Belt For Spear Fishermen

Sydney, Dec. 16.
Spearfisherman Dick Charles, president of the Underwater Spearfishermen's Association here, claims to have invented an inflatable safety belt which he hopes will save many lives in Sydney surfing this year.

He said his belt—made of plastic—can be blown up automatically by a carbon-dioxide cartridge, or by the mouth through a tube.

It weighs only one pound, and carries a sealed pocket of shark deterrent which a person can release to keep sharks away.

"My belt is designed mainly for fishermen who get swept off their feet or swimmers who are trapped deep down under," Mr. Charles said.

"But it will also save non-swimmers and poor swimmers. A person caught in heavy seas has only to tug a cord, and the belt inflates within seconds."—China Mail Special.

Indian Literary Figure Dead

London, Dec. 16.
A verdict of accidental death was recorded at today's inquest at Hammersmith on Abdullah Yusuf Ali, CBE, 81-year-old Indian literary figure and former minister.

He died at Hammersmith after being found by the police sitting on some steps in Westminster.

His widow said: "He spent his days at the Royal Empire Society, Northumberland Avenue but I do not know where he lodged at night."

He had a pension of £800 a year from the Indian Civil Service as well as independent means.

G.M. Muntz, Education Officer at the Pakistan Embassy, told the inquest that he saw the deceased on the day of his death. "His condition was deplorable, and I had known him in the days when he was a great man. I was horrified at the change. He had excellent friends in this country, some of them members of the House of Lords," he said.—France-Press.

A British Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 1 Isolated (8).
- 2 Hop-drying kiln (4).
- 3 Record (8).
- 4 Part of a car (8).
- 5 Support (4).
- 6 Weakness (8).
- 7 Refrained from (8).
- 8 Romain (4).
- 9 Quotations (8).
- 10 Lively (8).
- 11 Clutch (4).
- 12 Perceives (8).

DOWN

- 1 Oblivion (4).
- 2 Accustomed (4).
- 3 Animal fat (4).
- 4 Den (4).
- 5 Tendon (8).
- 6 Denude (8).
- 7 Mad (8).
- 8 Pierces (8).
- 9 Acknowledge (8).
- 10 Corpulent (8).
- 11 Send (8).
- 12 Flung (8).
- 13 Sober (8).
- 14 Wrong (8).
- 15 Wine (4).

YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD—Across: 1. Bumps, 4. Claps, 7. Intimate, 9. Vault, 10. Ferret, 11. Lovers, 12. Mosquito, 13. Dams, 14. Elias, 15. Practice, 16. Kari, 17. Scripps, 18. Down: 1. Ruff, 2. Oiler, 3. Stair, 4. Clever, 5. Allusion, 6. Glance, 7. Results, 8. Ordsale, 9. Mobile, 10. Jigsaw, 11. Utter, 12. Swede.

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No Answer For McCarthy

New York, Dec. 16.
American engineer Albert Shadovitz refused to tell Senator Joseph McCarthy's investigation subcommittee today whether he had been in the Communist Party or not.

He said that Prof. Albert Einstein had told him not to answer any questions.—France-Press.

Deputies & Senators Meet To Elect French President

By HAROLD KING

Versailles, Dec. 17.

France's elected representatives of the Senate and Chamber will meet here today, in the midst of the faded glories of former Emperors, to choose a President of the French Republic.

A total of 947 Deputies and Senators, making up the Congress of Versailles, will gather here to cast their votes for a President to succeed 69-year-old Vincent Auriol.

M. Auriol himself will not be at Versailles. Instead he will be giving a Christmas party at the Elysee Palace for 500 poor children.

Only after hours of secret balloting and meticulous scrutiny, bargaining in the lobbies between the parties and an expected second or even third vote on the following day, will the name of the new President become known.

The race is still an open one, for anyone can enter the Presidential contest, even a foreigner. A number of private citizens have done so. Including a taxi driver, a coal miner and a café owner who sent his name in for a bet.

But it is considered certain that the man who will succeed M. Auriol will be a party politician. Among such men the chief possible candidates are:

M. Joseph Laniel, 69, the present Prime Minister, who is a Moderate Conservative (Independent).
M. Georges Bidault, Foreign Minister, who represents the Popular Republican (Roman Catholic Reformist) Party.
M. Marcel Naegelen, 53, a Socialist, who used to be Governor-General of Algeria.

NO FERVOUR
The French election has none of the fervour of its counterpart in the United States. The Republic will be done in committee rooms and lobbies, and no speakers, not even the newly-elected President, will address the gathering.

The procedure, virtually unchanged since the birth of the Third Republic in 1871, will be in character with the dignified surroundings of the studded, marble halls of the Versailles Palace.

But for this occasion, at least, the 20th century is invading the 19th. For weeks an army of workmen and technicians have been swarming over the south wing, fixing lights, teleprinter lines, radio communications, putting extra seats into the Assembly hall, erecting telephone booths, buffets and barriers to keep out the curious.

Spotlights and television and cinema cameras are being placed between the marble columns which support the ornate ceiling of the great hall.

FORCE OF POLICE
A large force of police, Republican Guards, troops and firemen have been mobilised to keep order and escort the new President to the capital in a ceremony which will be through careful rehearsal last week.

The whole wide expanse of the famous Versailles Park will be closed to all except official traffic.

Besides the Deputies and Senators, only officials, a few distinguished guests and pressmen will be allowed through into the wing and the reception hall, lined with busts of famous Frenchmen of the past, which leads to the Assembly Hall.

Each Deputy and Senator, as his name is called, will step up to place a card bearing the name of his choice in a huge urn in front of the tribunal.

The process is expected to take about three hours. When the last vote has been cast, the urn will be carried out, through the Napoleon vestibule and past the offices of the 15 past Presidents, of France to the Marengo Hall.

There, under the immobile scrutiny of a bronze bust of the young Napoleon, the votes will be counted.

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"TRIUMPH AND TRAGEDY"... CHAPTER 29

ROOSEVELT'S DEATH CAME AS A SHOCK

By Sir Winston Churchill

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT died suddenly on Thursday, Apr. 12, 1945, at Warm Springs, Georgia. He was 63. In the afternoon, while he was having his portrait painted, he suddenly collapsed, and died the same evening without regaining consciousness.

Preceding chapters have shown how the problems of impending victory rivalled in their perplexity the worst perils of war. Indeed, it may be said that Roosevelt died at the supreme climax of the war, and at the moment when his authority was most needed to guide the policy of the United States.

When I received these tidings early in the morning of Friday, Apr. 13, I felt as if I had been struck a physical blow. My relations with this great personality, which had played so large a part in the long, terrible years we had worked together, had come to an end, and I was overpowered by a sense of deep and irreparable loss.

I went down to the House of Commons, which met at 11 o'clock, and in a few sentences proposed that we should pay our respects to the memory of our great friend by immediately adjourning. This unprecedented step on the occasion of the death of the head of a foreign State was in accordance with the unanimous wish of the Members, who

fled slowly out of the chamber after a sitting which had lasted only eight minutes.

When Parliament met on Tuesday, Apr. 17, I moved an address to the King conveying to His Majesty the deep sorrow of the House and their profound sympathy with Mrs. Roosevelt and with the Government and people of the United States. It is customary for the leaders of all parties to speak in support of such a motion, but there developed a spontaneous feeling that it should be left to me alone to speak for the Commons.

ALTHOUGH Roosevelt's death came as a shock and a surprise as I have said, I had been aware ever since we parted at Alexandria after the Yalta Conference that his strength was fading. I did what I could in personal telegrams to relieve the strain of the divergencies on large matters of policy which Soviet antagonism brought into our official correspondence, but I had not fully realised how serious the President's condition had become.

I knew that it was not his practice to draft his own telegrams about official business and no change in their style was apparent. Oliver Lyttelton, who saw him on March 29, telegraphed on the 30th that he was "greatly shocked by his appearance."

My first impulse was to fly over to the funeral, and I had already ordered an aeroplane. Much pressure was however put on me not to leave the country at this most critical and difficult moment, and I yielded to the wishes of my friends. Lord Halifax [then British Ambassador in Washington] had telegraphed in reply to my first intention:

Have spoken to Harry Hopkins and Stettinius [then Secretary of State], who are both much moved by your thought of possibly coming over and who both warmly agree with my judgment of the immense effect for good that would be produced. Nor do I overlook the value, if you came, of your seeing Truman....

NEXT day he gave a more decided response:

I rang up Stettinius to give him your message. At the same time he came back by saying Truman had asked him to say how greatly he would personally value opportunity of meeting you as early as possible, and thought visit for funeral, if you had had this in mind, would have been natural and easy opportunity. Truman's idea was that after the funeral you might have had two or three days' talks with him. ... I replied:

Will you ask Mr Stettinius to give the following message from me to the President:

I very much regret that it is impossible now for me to change my plans, which were approved by the King and the Cabinet this morning, and upon which all arrangements have been made for the conduct of the debates in Parliament next week, including my tribute to the late Pres-

ident on Tuesday, and my attendance upon the King at the memorial service to be held in St. Paul's Cathedral.

I am looking forward earnestly to a meeting with you at an early date. Meanwhile the Foreign Secretary knows the whole story of our joint affairs.

In the after-light I regret that I did not adopt the new President's suggestion. I had never met him, and I feel that there were many points on which personal talks would have been of the greatest value, especially if they had been spread over several days and not hurried or formalised. It seemed to me extraordinary, especially during the last few months, that Roosevelt had not made his deputy and potential successor thoroughly acquainted with the whole story and brought him into the decisions which were being taken.

THIS proved of grave disadvantage to our affairs. There is no comparison between reading about events afterwards and living through them from hour to hour. In Mr Eden I had a colleague who knew everything and could at any moment take over the entire direction, although I was myself in good health and full activity. But the Vice-President of the United States steps at a bound from a position where he has little information and less power into supreme authority.

How could Mr Truman know and weigh the issues at stake at this climax of the war? Everything that we have learnt about him since shows him to be a resolute and fearless man capable of taking the greatest decisions. In these early months his position was one of extreme difficulty, and did not enable him to bring his outstanding qualities fully into action.

To my first and formal telegram of condolence and salutation the new President sent a most friendly reply.

MR Truman assured me he would do everything in his power to forward the cause for which President Roosevelt gave his life, and to guard and promote the intimate solid relations between our countries which he and I had forged. He hoped to meet me, and promised in the meantime to send me a telegram about Stalin's messages on Poland.

A very informative telegram from our Ambassador reached me a few days later.

16 Apr 45
Anthony and I saw Harry Hopkins this morning. We both thought that he looked rather frail and fine-drawn.... He had not been greatly surprised by the President's death, and was thankful that he had not had a stroke and lost power like Wilson. For some time he had noticed how much the President had faded. He had been able to do only very little work.

He judged President's death to have created a completely new situation in which we should be starting from scratch. One thing we could be certain of would be that the policy would be very much more the concerted action of the Senate. How this would work it was quite impossible to predict. Much would depend on his personal judgments of the people with whom he would be dealing.

Harry thought, on the whole, it had worked out for the best that you had decided not to come over now. To give Truman a few weeks to find his feet was very much to the good. Meanwhile you could be exchanging personal messages, which would make him begin to feel he knew you.

Anthony suggested that it would be better, especially if events went the way that looked likely, and if Truman came over to see the United States troops, for him to stop in London en route, which we should like also on general

grounds, and which F. D. I. had promised to do. Harry liked that idea. ... It may be of interest that Truman's hobby is history of military strategy, of which he is reported to have read widely. He certainly betrayed surprising knowledge of Hannibal's campaigns one night here. He venerates Marshall.

EDEN, who was now in Washington, wrote:

The Ambassador and I had a talk with Stettinius shortly after my arrival this morning. Stettinius said that both Stalin and Molotov had shown signs of being deeply moved by the President's death. Stalin had asked Harriman whether there was any contribution he could make at a moment like this to assist to promote the unity of the great Allies.

Stettinius said that, fortunately Harriman had not at once replied "Poland," but instead had suggested that it would be a good thing if Molotov could come to San Francisco for the Conference. Stettinius had seized on this, and telegraphed urging not only that Molotov should come to San Francisco, but also that he should come to Washington first for conversations.

An hour ago Stettinius rang me up to say that the Russians had agreed to this course and that Molotov was coming by an American aircraft which had been sent to bring him. I suppose therefore that he will be here by Tuesday, when I plan that we should embark upon the Polish issue.

This is all good news, but we ought not to build too much on it, for it yet remains to be seen what attitude Molotov adopts when he gets here. At any rate, it is stimulating to have a chance to get to grips.

Stettinius also spoke to me this afternoon about the debate in the House of Commons this week on Poland, and said that he hoped that you would be able to indicate that events have taken a new turn in the light of the meeting of the three Foreign Secretaries. I agreed, but told him that it was my view that it would do the Russians no harm to know how deep was our concern at the failure of the Moscow commission thus far to make progress on the basis of Yalta decisions.

I feel strongly that we must keep a steady pressure on the Russians. There is no justification yet for optimism, and our best chance of success in any of the conversations here is that the Russians should understand to the full the seriousness for us all of the failure.

AND the next day:

Foreign Secretary (Washington) to Prime Minister (London) 16 Apr 45
Edward [Lord Halifax] and I paid our first call on the President this morning. He made a good impression. I told him how touched and pleased you had been with his first message to you. I repeated your regret that it had not been possible for you to come to Washington on the occasion of the late President's funeral, but said that you hoped an early meeting would be possible.

The President said that he warmly reciprocated these sentiments. We would understand that he had inherited heavy responsibilities. He had to familiarise himself with a wide range of subjects. It was however his intention to continue on exactly the same lines of foreign policy as the late President had followed.

Stettinius came into the room at this point and conversation turned on Molotov's acceptance of the invitation to go to San Francisco. Stettinius said that he hoped Molotov would be here about Thursday, and he suggested he and I and Molotov should travel on together to San Francisco, breaking our journey for a day or two at some point on the way and arriving together at San Francisco.

Molotov's arrival he should first have a conversation with the President and that then the three Foreign Secretaries should meet together to work out all problems between us. In particular, Poles, San Francisco Conference, and prisoners of war....

I then reverted to the subject of a meeting between you and the President, and said that the President would probably recall that President Roosevelt had planned to make an early visit to Europe making London his first port of call. I knew that His Majesty and you and all His Majesty's Government would be much gratified if President Truman felt able to carry through this programme.

The President said that he would like this very much, but we should understand for the moment that he had a number of immediate duties to carry through here. He must deal with a number of urgent domestic issues, and he must also familiarise himself with the late President's policies, on a wide range of subjects.

It was not therefore possible for him to give a definite answer now. I got the impression, however, that he would like to come, though it may be that the date will have to be later than President Roosevelt contemplated.

We then spoke again of the Polish business, and I said how gratified we had been that, after all the tangled and extremely complicated negotiations which had ensued since Yalta, the President and yourself, the State Department and Foreign Office, had been completely at one. I thought this was remarkable, and very encouraging for the future....

My impression from the interview is that the new President is honest and friendly. He is conscious of, but not overwhelmed by, his new responsibilities. His references to you could not have been warmer. I believe we shall have in him a loyal collaborator, and I am much heartened by this first conversation.

(Continued Tomorrow)

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POCKET CARTOON

by OSBERT LANCASTER



"And please remember, Venables, that this year we have decided to set our face firmly against the star system and have all made up our minds to be just good trouperers."

NO-BARK DOGS YODEL

DOGS which do not bark (though they can produce a high-pitched yodel when they are pleased) are being bred in East Molesey (Surrey) for a world market.

They are used for hunting wild game in the Belgian Congo.

The dogs—short-haired, friendly Basenjis—are reared by Miss Veronica Tudor-Williams at her home, Matham Manor.

She exports them to America, Canada and Australia in an attempt to keep the strain alive. She says: "These dogs were seen on the tombs of the ancient Egyptians, but by the time the tombs were discovered the dogs had become unknown."

"They were rediscovered in 1929 by Mrs. Olivia Burn in the Congo. She brought some puppies back and gave me one. Since then I have been breeding them and sending them to all parts of the world."

In 1947, King Farouk sent a special envoy to this country to buy one of Miss Tudor-Williams's dogs.

Nearly all the Basenjis in the civilised world today have originated from Miss Tudor-Williams's kennels.

She has bred 28 champions. One of them, Champion Petal of the Congo, she considers to be the best in the world.

"An American millionaire once offered me £1,000 for her," she said, "but I wouldn't part with her for anything."

Basenjis are fine pets, but poor house dogs because they cannot bark. "When they want to give a warning they get into a very agitated state," says Miss Tudor-Williams.

Arthur Hind

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Colonel UP and Mr. DOWN... by Walter



BY THE WAY... by Beachcomber

AN American has played a round of golf by helicopter, flying from stroke to stroke—presumably to save time.

If power clubs wish to attract adventurous players, they will introduce this system. And what about tiny helicopters for carrying the younger players to the clubhouse by having to make a parachute landing for each shot. How old-fashioned billiards on ice on horseback will seem.

Mr. Arkatopikis smiles

CONSIDER: Probably Mr. Arkatopikis, who made \$2,000,000 out of something or other, is playing the fool. My serious humor is stealing like a flock of sheep in midsummer, into the lounge and along the corridors of the big West End hotels. The shares go down. The chairman and directors deny that they are going to sell, but Mr. Arkatopikis smiles. A beautiful bent in the Cockatoo Cabin, stirring her hydrogen bomb with insolent ease, says loudly, "I hear this place is going to be sold. Two hours later, six dozen drinks, in various hotel bars, are repeating her words. A cold air of disbelief drifts over the faithful decorations. The waiters talk in low voices. In vain are come the promised for Christmas. The rumors persist. Mr. Arkatopikis continues to smile.

A mouth too full for words

If addressed when your mouth is full, you should wait until it is empty before answering.

If the question is a very important one, point politely to your mouth with your little finger, and smile graciously, thus calling attention to the reason for your slowness in replying. If the question is trivial, answer away and with considerable nonchalance.

Fiasco at sports meeting

DURING a tug-of-war between the Metropolitan Police Women's Club and the Park Court Branch of the Women's Laundry Supermarket, Sergeant A. A. Butt cut the rope with a pair of hedge-clippers. The two teams collapsed in heaps. Many have thought it was cutting the rope to open a new by-pass, said Sergeant Butt. Jim Khana, a member of the Metropolitan Police, who acted as referee, said, "This could never happen in Africa. Marry, come up."

AN indignant commentator on the recent students' rage has issued a ringing call through a cardboard trumpet stuffed with old straw. He is Mr. New Elizabethans, everyone should aim to go forward to a higher plane, not revert to medieval practices.

DUMB BELLS



YOUR BIRTHDAY... By STELLA

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17

BORN today, you have a wealth of self-confidence in your ability. While this is usually well-founded in the knowledge that you have real talents, you must guard against promising more than you can deliver. It is better to keep your word on a small scale and everything you attempt is planned on a large scale. Just make sure that your aim does not sometimes outstretch your reach.

You have a rather combative nature and are always ready to fight hard and boisterously for any-

thing you want. And, since you usually want a lot of things all at once, your life is sometimes full of a bit of confusion. You must learn that sometimes you can attain your objective more readily through diplomacy rather than through aggressive moves. You have the gift of knowing what to do in the midst of any situation. You must learn that an invaluable person to have around, although you may bluster and brag when things are going along smoothly—just to stir up a little excitement—when the going gets really rough, you color and know exactly what to do instantly.

When it comes to love and romance, it would be well for you to give a second thought to the idea before you plunge into it. You are quite emotional and very affectionate. But you are changeable. Learn to distinguish between infatuation and real love before you wed, or there can be considerable discontent in store for you.

To find what the stars have in store for tomorrow, select your birthday star and read the corresponding paragraph. Let your birthday star be your daily guide.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 22)—Work hard today and get a lot of completed. Then when evening comes you can sit down and relax. CAPRICORN (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)—Although the Christmas holidays are drawing near, you must adhere strictly to business, especially for today.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21-Feb. 19)—Be circumspect with personal property. You could incur a serious loss unless you watch out now. PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20)—If you are restless today, it means that tensions are rising and you should take measures to relax a little.

ARIES (Mar. 21-Apr. 20)—Be diplomatically cautious. Do not antagonize anyone. A minor misunderstanding could turn into a quarrel.

CANCER (Jun. 22-Jul. 22)—Memory can sometimes play tricks on you. Be sure that you don't put important details in between your fingers and thumb.

LEO (Jul. 23-Aug. 23)—If finances are troublesome, there's a good reason. You must give up your help and good advice. VIRGO (Aug. 24-Sept. 23)—Get busy on those last details for Christmas. Don't leave anything to the very last minute.

LIBRA (Sept. 24-Oct. 23)—A pre-Christmas visit to members of the family who are out of town, delivering your presents, can bring you a great deal of pleasure.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)—Procrastination is going to mean a serious difficulty later on. Keep up to your scheduled plans.

JACOBY ON BRIDGE

Guide Your Partner With Principles

By OSWALD JACOBY

WHEN you double a contract of three no-trump you are usually guiding your partner to the best opening lead. The opening leader observes the following principles:

1. If the defenders have bid a suit, the double calls for a lead in that suit.

2. If each defender has bid a suit, the double requests a lead in the doubler's suit.

3. If neither defender has bid a suit, the double asks for a lead in the first suit bid by the dummy.

In today's hand dummy's first (and only) suit was spades. Hence the double asked for a spade lead. East couldn't be quite sure that a spade lead would defeat the contract, but he could feel confident that it would give the defenders their best chance.

West properly and obediently opened a spade, and East was able to win the trick with the ten when the eight was played from the dummy. East naturally returned a diamond, South finished the queen, and West won with the king.

West now returned another spade, giving East another diamond, and East returned another diamond, giving West a second chance. By this process the defenders were able to take three spade tricks, two diamonds, and the ace of clubs. There was nothing South could do about it; he could

merely sit there and lose 500 points.

Now let's see what would happen if East failed to double the final contract of three no-trump. West would probably open a diamond. This would not only give declarer a free finesse in diamonds, but it would also give him time to establish his clubs. South would win with the ten of diamonds and knock out the ace of clubs at once. He would then be in position to take three clubs, two diamonds and four hearts—for a total of nine tricks.

South would have scored 600 points for making his contract of three no-trump. The difference between a gain of 600 and a loss of 500 points was a total swing of 1,100 points.

Q—The bidding has been: South West North East 1 Heart Pass 1 Spade Pass 2 N.T. Pass 2 N.T. Pass 3 N.T. Pass 3 N.T. Pass 4 N.T. Pass 4 N.T. Pass 5 N.T. Pass 5 N.T. Pass 6 N.T. Pass 6 N.T. Pass 7 N.T. Pass 7 N.T. Pass 8 N.T. Pass 8 N.T. Pass 9 N.T. Pass 9 N.T. Pass 10 N.T. Pass 10 N.T. Pass 11 N.T. Pass 11 N.T. Pass 12 N.T. Pass 12 N.T. Pass 13 N.T. Pass 13 N.T. Pass 14 N.T. Pass 14 N.T. Pass 15 N.T. Pass 15 N.T. Pass 16 N.T. Pass 16 N.T. Pass 17 N.T. Pass 17 N.T. Pass 18 N.T. Pass 18 N.T. Pass 19 N.T. Pass 19 N.T. Pass 20 N.T. Pass 20 N.T. Pass 21 N.T. Pass 21 N.T. Pass 22 N.T. Pass 22 N.T. Pass 23 N.T. Pass 23 N.T. Pass 24 N.T. Pass 24 N.T. Pass 25 N.T. Pass 25 N.T. Pass 26 N.T. Pass 26 N.T. Pass 27 N.T. Pass 27 N.T. Pass 28 N.T. Pass 28 N.T. Pass 29 N.T. Pass 29 N.T. Pass 30 N.T. Pass 30 N.T. Pass 31 N.T. Pass 31 N.T. Pass 32 N.T. Pass 32 N.T. Pass 33 N.T. Pass 33 N.T. Pass 34 N.T. Pass 34 N.T. Pass 35 N.T. Pass 35 N.T. Pass 36 N.T. Pass 36 N.T. Pass 37 N.T. Pass 37 N.T. Pass 38 N.T. 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WELSH BACKS MEET THE ALL BLACKS FORWARDS THIS SATURDAY

By J. R. WATKINS

Wales v. the All Blacks. What wonderful prospects are conjured up by this first International of the season. *Great traditions and great players abound on both sides. There will not be an inch of spare room at the Arms Park Ground, Cardiff, this Saturday afternoon.

Important issues are at stake. Firstly the New Zealanders have old scores to settle. Two previous All Blacks sides (in 1905 and 1935) were beaten by Wales. Bob Stuart and his men therefore are out to prevent the first hat-trick of victories ever recorded against their country.

Secondly, and perhaps even more important, there is a clash of playing styles, the outcome of which can influence not only club rugby but the International game for many years to come.

BATTLE OF STYLES

The strength of the present All Blacks lies in the pack. Wales on the other hand possess genuine match-winners among their backs. Victory for one side over the other may be interpreted as victory for one style over the other and thus have far-reaching repercussions. I am told that all young New Zealanders at the moment have ambitions to become forwards when they grow up. This is as a result of the style of play of the present All Blacks. In Wales, most youngsters fancy themselves as half-backs or three-quarters.

Britain has grown tired of the forward monopoly which is modern rugby. Funny, had hoped that the All Blacks would play the open game and so help to re-establish its popularity. Now, however, it has become evident they do not possess the necessary power behind the scrum.

Responsibility for restoring it therefore, lies with Wales, and in the recent victory of Cardiff over the All Blacks there is bound to be a re-awakening of interest in the possibilities of back play. The match itself will revolve around the ability of the Welsh forwards to obtain sufficient of the ball for their backs to employ their skill. Should they fail, the hard-going All Black forwards can win the match. In the line-out, where they have that great expert Roy John, Wales should take the honours.

In the set scrums and loose scrums, however, one cannot visualise them enjoying the same success. Welsh packs do not get around quickly enough in the loose and the present eight may not possess sufficient power to prevent the All Blacks from shoving them backwards.

STRIKING POWER

Yet, even with an infrequent supply of the ball, there is still enough striking power. In the Welsh back division to bring about victory.

The elusive Cliff Morgan at outside-half has the confidence and ability to escape the attentions of even such fast breaking forwards as Tiny White and Stuart and, as was proved at Cardiff, there is no real answer to clever and fast handling and running with the ball.

The Welsh three-quarters look for more impressive than their counterparts although, in Jorden, the All Blacks have a man who may well be the fastest on the field, outstripping even Ken Jones, the Olympic sprinter and Welsh wing-three. On the blind side, Jorden could be a real menace to Welsh hopes, but on the open I do not expect him to get much of the ball.

The greatest danger of Wales will come, as I see it, not from the New Zealand forwards, even though they present such a real threat, but from careless giving away of penalties.

Both Bob Scott and Jorden possess the ability to put the ball between the posts from anywhere in their opponents' half of the field and it might well be that the final result will hinge upon accurate goal-kicking.

FALL SHORT

In this respect Wales fall short of the All Blacks. Since the departure of "wonder" boy Lewis Jones to League football, the Welsh selectors have been unable to find a worthy successor.

The Devonport Services full-back Terry Davies took most kudos for Wales last year, but as he is now out of the game with a back injury, Wales have to delegate the task elsewhere.

This game may well prove the toughest assignment of the tour for the All Blacks. No sporting event in Wales has aroused more enthusiasm in recent years.

Let us hope therefore that, whatever the style of play, tempers do not get out of control. Recent boozing at the "varsity" match at Twickenham marked a new departure in Rugby Union football. It is one that the game could well do without.

(London Express Service)

INTERNATIONAL CUP

The following will represent Great Britain to the International Cup against China: (Army); Armstrong (Club); Lau Yee (South China); Tang Sum (KMB); Frazier (Army); Falconer (Club); Nash (Army); Szeto Man (KMB); Au Ching-yin (Police); Gilbey (RAF); Hsu Ching-to (Sing Tao). Team Manager, Capt. George; Captain, Frazier (Army).

All members of Hongkong Selection will be reserves for All-Hongkong. Reserves for Hongkong Selections—Wai Fat-kin (KMB); Casey (Army); Chan Fui-hui (Kilchee); Jobling (Navy); Ho Cheung-yai (Sing Tao); Lee Chun-fat (KMB).

The All-Hongkong and Hongkong Selection teams were selected after a trial match yesterday. They will meet in a final practice match on December 23.

Discussions On Asian Games Problems

Mr. Masaji Tabata, President of the Japan Amateur Athletic Federation, will leave by air on Friday night for Manila to discuss with Philippine sports officials problems relating to the Asian Games.

He will be accompanied by Mr. Lee Pak, Hon. Secretary of the South Korean Olympic Committee, who is now in Tokyo.

Mr. Tabata's talks in Manila are expected to centre on the events and participant status of the Asian Games. He is expected also to emphasise Japan's opposition to any move seeking the withdrawal of the Asian Federation from the International Olympic Committee.

In addition to his JAAF post, Mr. Tabata is Secretary-General of the Japanese Olympic Committee. He is expected to remain in Manila for about one week.—United Press.

Indiana Cagers Defeat Notre Dame

New York, Dec. 15. Top-ranked Indiana defeated Notre Dame 65-55 while Wisconsin lost to Oklahoma 69-55 to give Big Ten basketball teams an even split in games played yesterday.

Guard Bob Leonard led the Big Ten and NCAA champion Hoosiers with 21 points as they spoiled a three-game Irish victory string. Leonard hit on five straight long shots as Indiana scored 25 points in the second quarter to go ahead 42-27.

Notre Dame put two then on a 6-ft. 10-in. Hoosier centre Don Ehlund and he was held to nine points as Indiana won its fourth straight victory.

Irish captain Dick Rosenthal led the scoring with 22 points. Wisconsin rallied to a 60-60 tie in the last period but fell short as Oklahoma staged a scoring spree of its own to clinch the game.

Wisconsin led 20-19 at the end of the first quarter, but made only one field goal and four free throws in the second period while the Sooners collected 10 points for a 35-27 halftime lead.

Sooner guard Lester Lane was high scorer with 23 points.—United Press.

Lawn Tennis May Soon Join The Floodlit Sport Scene In Britain

London, Dec. 16.

Lawn tennis may soon join the floodlit sport scene in Britain.

The Council of the Lawn Tennis Association has promised to look into the question of installing floodlighting for club courts throughout the country.

At present, players in Britain are seriously handicapped by the limited facilities for floodlighting during the winter. Floodlit tennis is widespread in Australia, the United States and parts of South America, and the fact that these areas provide the world's leading players is due in no small measure to the fact that their players are able to practise throughout the year.

LTA GRANTS? The proposal that the British Lawn Tennis Association should make grants to leading clubs to make in the purchase of floodlighting equipment was made by Mr. C. M. Jones, former British Davis Cup player.

Mr. Jones, who pointed out that no less than 1,200 courts are closed in Sydney alone, declared that the average court in Britain could be adequately lit for around £100.

He said that floodlit tennis would stimulate winter competition and might lead to inter-city tournaments at night. It would certainly provide an opportunity for thousands of office workers and others to improve their game after dark.—China Mail Special.

Milwaukee Germans Turning Out In Force

Milwaukee, Dec. 16. One of the biggest fight crowds in Milwaukee since the end of the war was forecast today by the promoters of the heavyweight bout between Hein Ten Hoff and Don Bucceroni.

Bucceroni, top-ranking contender for the heavyweight title, will meet the 225-pound Ten Hoff, former German Champion, in a 10-round affair at the Milwaukee Arena on January 5.

The German-American residents of Milwaukee and surrounding communities have shown an unusual amount of interest in the match.—United Press.

ARSENAL v. NEWCASTLE UNITED



Lishman, Arsenal inside-left, makes a very determined attack on the Newcastle goal which is folled by Simpson, the defending goalkeeper, in the match at Arsenal Stadium which Arsenal won 2-1.

SPOTLIGHTING THE THREE-YEAR-OLDS OF 1954

Barton Street Shows Speed And Stamina

By JAMES PARK

Burly Sam Hall will not be upset because Barton Street has no classic engagement. Sam is the phlegmatic type. I met him at Newmarket in October. "Get any yearlings?" I queried. "Aye," said Sam in his broad Yorkshire. "I got one for 50 quid." It was true, too. Only he forgot to mention the extra shillings.

The Halls are a grand family. And it is very much a family affair. The first of the family to take out a trainer's licence—so far as I know—was Tom.

That was just incidental, because farming was the main business. I always used to call at The Manor at Towton, near Tadcaster, on my way to York, to have a chat with Tom Hall.

On the walls were paintings of famous hackneys, and I learned that he had always been "in horses." Tom did so well as a trainer that he decided to make it a whole-time job. He moved to Breconhill, over the moors at Middleham.

Brother Charlie then took over the Towton stables. Don't ask me why he is called Charlie. He was christened William Arthur Hall.

MUCH SUCCESS

Charlie confines himself almost solely to racing under National Hunt Rules, and has had much success. He won the Emblem Chase at Manchester recently with Stormhead for the second year in succession.

Tom Hall died soon after he went to Breconhill, and Sam took over. Like the horses, he

thrives on his work. The best side of the business has never interested the Hall family. All they want is to turn out winners, but let them do it in their own time.

I looked up the list of horses Sam Hall had in training at the beginning of the season. There was a nine-year-old, three eight-year-olds, two seven-year-olds, and two six-year-olds.

I don't suppose any other flat-race trainer in the country could boast so many veterans. They were all treated in the same way—as members of the family—which is why they lasted so long.

HONOURABLE DEFEAT

Barton Street was for and away the best of the ten two-year-olds trained by Sam Hall. The colt cost 500 guineas as a yearling and has proved a rare money-spinner. He won four of his six races and qualified for a mark of 81, 10lb. In the Free Handicap, I did not see much of him because he was confined mainly to the North.

At York in August I realised Barton Street was above the ordinary. He made a great attempt to give 10lb. to L'Avengro. It had to be left to the camera to show that Barton Street had suffered an honourable defeat by a short head. That was the only time the colt was beaten after a first appearance.

The next time I saw Barton Street was at Sandown in October. It was a foggy day and after seeing them jump off at the seven-furlong post

KCC BEAT HKCC IN ANNUAL GOLF MATCH

In their annual golf match for "The Oval," Hongkong Cricket Club and Kowloon Cricket Club met at Fanling on Sunday. Singles in the morning were all square; in the afternoon, KCC won three of the four four-ball matches.

Results are as follows (HKCC players named first): Singles—T. A. Pearce 0, J. L. MacIntyre 1; J. W. Stanton 0, R. Lee 1; C. Leader 1, A. V. White 0; R. M. Macpherson 1, F. Zimmeder 0; J. Holmes 0, P. V. Lodge 1; H. O. Hubble 1, S. G. Gilling 0; T. Pritchard 1, C. I. Stapleton 0; Capt. Burt 0, J. Chubb 1.

Four-ball—Pearce/Stanton 0, MacIntyre/Lee 2; Leader/Burt 0, White/Chubb 2; Macpherson/Hubble 2, Gilling/Zimmerman 2; Holmes/Pritchard 0, Dodge/Stapleton 2. Total—HKCC 6, KCC 10.

ARMY TENNIS FINALS

By "ARGONAUT"

The 1953 Colony Army Tennis Championships concluded yesterday at the Hongkong Cricket Club courts with the play-off of three finals.

The best game of the afternoon turned out to be the Men's Singles final between Major J. K. Forte of the Royal Norfolk and 2/Lt B. R. Hazlitt of the 27th HAA Regt., RA.

This went to the full distance of five sets before Forte had the better of Hazlitt by 6-1, 4-0, 6-2, 4-0, 6-1. Major Forte played a fine tactical game, conserving his

stamina in the first half of the match and capitalising in the errors of his opponent. His wider repertoire of accurate strokes and greater experience enabled him to hold the edge on his opponent throughout the whole game.

Hazlitt was much the faster of the two and showed a deadly forehand drive, from which he earned most of his points. A weak backhand and a tendency to simple errors cost him a number of valuable games.

He was most successful when he tried to come up to the net, but was well held at the base by his opponent's better control of length for the major part of the game.

Walthamstow Eliminated

London, Dec. 16.

Walthamstow Avenue, one of the amateur sides in the Football Association Cup, were eliminated by Ipswich Town, the Third Division Southern leaders, in their second-round replay today.

A goal four minutes from the end and the only score of the match, brought Ipswich through to the third round against the amateurs, who reached the fourth round last year.

The football never reached a high standard and only in brief spells was there any excitement. Brighton and Wrexham were still level after extra time today and will have to meet again.

Wrexham scored first, but Brighton were more aggressive side and with more punch in the forward line might have won the match.

Hartlepool United, who lost their half through injury, scored after eighteen minutes of extra time to qualify for the third round. Hartlepool had been on the attack for long spells of the game, but were thwarted time and again by Northampton's brilliant goalkeeper.—Reuter.

OTHER RESULTS

London, Dec. 16. The following were the football results of the FA Cup second round replay—Brighton and Hove 1 Wrexham 1 (after extra time); Hartlepool United 1 Northampton 0 (after extra time); Tranmere Rovers 5 Accrington Stanley 1; Walthamstow Avenue 0 Ipswich Town 1.—Reuter.

GRIMSBY WIN

London, Dec. 15.

Grimsbey Town beat Witton Albion 6-1 in their F.A. Cup second round replay today. Grimsby are now at home to Fulham in the third round on January 9.—Reuter.

HARD-HITTING

Fast and hard-hitting tennis featured the Mixed Doubles final between Capt. H. Stamp and Mrs. Stamp and Maj. Walker and Mrs. G. E. Albrow.

Good placement shots by Walker and fine net play by Mrs. Albrow enabled them to take the first set by 6-3. The hard-hitting husband and wife combination of Capt. and Mrs. Stamp got well into their stride in the second and third sets when they swept through with powerful volleys and smashes to win by 6-1 and 6-0.

The Men's Doubles final saw Major Forte showing evident signs of the gruelling singles game he had played earlier and despite a game effort by him and his partner, Major Goldborough, particularly in the first set, they had to concede the match 7-9 and 2-6 to their smoother hitting opponents Lt. Col. Jackson and Miss Walker.

A family atmosphere prevailed throughout the finals, and among the interested spectators were Lt.-General Sir Torrence Airey, KCMG, CB, CBE, Commander, British Forces, Hongkong, and Lady Airey.

At the conclusion of the games, Lady Airey distributed the prizes to the winners and runners-up.

THE RESULTS

Men's Singles (Final)
Maj. J. K. Forte beat 2/Lt. B. R. Hazlitt 6-1, 4-0, 6-2, 4-0, 6-1.
Men's Doubles (Final)
Lt. Col. Jackson and Maj. Walker beat Maj. Forte and Maj. Goldborough 9-7, 6-2.
Mixed Doubles (Final)
Capt. H. Stamp and Mrs. Stamp beat Maj. Walker and Mrs. G. E. Albrow 3-6, 6-1, 6-0.

It's Time For Change In British Athletics

Says TREVOR FORBES

McDonald Bailey, joint holder of the world 100 Metres record, has forsaken athletics for Rugby League football. Yet, in his own words, he "still feels sentimental about the old sport." Not surprising for a man who has devoted his whole life to running.

The feeling, however, does not appear to be mutual. Mac, having accepted payment for his sporting services, is now an athletic outcast. He can never again run as an amateur.

That he is not being paid for running does not interest the autocrats who control athletics. Nor does the fact that Bailey has done more than any other person to put British athletics on the map.

MAINSTAYS Just after the war, he and fellow West Indian Arthur Wint were the mainstays of every British team. More than that, with talent scarce, it was only their appearance at meetings which ensured good support.

And without this support, British athletics, far from experiencing its present revival, would have had to battle for survival.

Why then should Mac not be allowed to play rugby pro-

essionally and still run as an amateur?

The ban was originally enforced because it was felt that the man who was paid to keep himself fit would have an unfair advantage over someone who had to do so in his spare time.

In the Victorian age, when our grandfathers dreamed up the idea, it seemed a noble scheme. It was only right that the working athlete should be given a fair chance.

BIG BUSINESS But times have changed. Sport, even between amateurs, has become big business. To be a champion really means something. Business firms have been quick to realise this. Success on the sports field often

guarantees a better position than can be achieved by academic ability.

Consequently few indeed are the top athletes who are not allowed time to compete in meetings, and keep themselves in trim.

What was once a noble idea has become, therefore, a hide-bound tradition. But still the more mention of professionalism sends the athletic authorities clutching their old school ties.

As sport becomes more and more commercialised, this tradition must eventually go. Why not now? For no-one could be more fitted to inspire its departure than Emmanuelle McDonald Bailey.

(London Express Service)

THE GAMBOLS

By Barry Appleby



BLUE BAND MARGARINE

—It's delicious

Obtainable from THE DAIRY FARM and all leading grocers.

Sunderland's Policy Unaltered

London, Dec. 16. Sunderland's all-star team, the costliest in English football, now rests at the foot of the First Division table with the worst defensive record in the entire League.

In 21 games, they have conceded 50 goals, and according to this form are in danger of a drop to the Second Division. The only League club able to boast an over-present record in the First Division.

Money appears to have brought stars to Roker Park, but not team spirit. They paid £20,050 for English inside-forward Len Shackleton, and £29,000 for Welsh international centre-forward Trevor Ford.

Other big sums were paid for Freddie, Juddell, Watson, Hall, Atkinson, Widdows, Bingham, Tomkins, Wright and Turnbull.

OUT AGAIN
The transfer of Ivor Broadis to Manchester City brought them some return, but before the start of this season the cheque book was out again for centre-half Ray Daniel from Arsenal (£27,000), outside-right Billy Elliott from Burnley (£20,000), and goalkeeper Jimmy Cowan from Morton (£9,000). This brought their total estimated expenditure since the war to more than £150,000.

Ford was transferred to Cardiff for £30,000, but apparently the money will not be in the bank for long. Sunderland are reported to be on the look-out for two full-backs and a centre-forward. And their policy is unaltered. They are prepared to spend between £40,000 and £50,000 for them. China Mail Special.

KEENAN'S FIGHT POSTPONED

The comeback campaign of Peter Keenan, former British and European Bantamweight Champion, has suffered a temporary setback—outside the ring. Keenan was to have fought Frenchman Robert Meunier on December 21, but the bout has been postponed, at the Frenchman's request, until the new year.

WE DON'T KNOW WHO'S TRYING TO BE FUNNY...

Says JOHN McKENNA

London. We don't know who's trying to be funny—but we suspect the hand of a bored public relations man behind the "tentative" title of a new movie in production at Shepperton Studios.

It's called "Lifetime." That may mean any one of several things—all of them bad puns.

For instance it stars Ginger Rogers and her new (16 years younger than she) husband, Jacques Bergerac.

The picture will grind through a plot allegedly like the true story of their "love-at-first-sight" meeting and romance in France, with some "violence" thrown in.

Maybe it is a line taken from life. But, if so, it is a line taken from life as a press agent sees it.

A closer look at the plot suggests another reason for the title. Says the studio: "Its central theme is an American girl's search for happiness in the gay and glittering human kaleidoscope of a pleasure-loving French Riviera."

The sweet little thing, it transpires, is tired of a "tawdry" life as an actress and throws it up to become the "treasured possession" of a rich, elderly man. Then she meets a "gay, young excentric artist."

We won't take you through any more of this. You can see it's an old, old line. A real studio "lifetime."

Finally, maybe the studio is in need of a good, old-fashioned box office hit (the pre-TV kind). But it isn't the sort of line on which we'd risk our life.

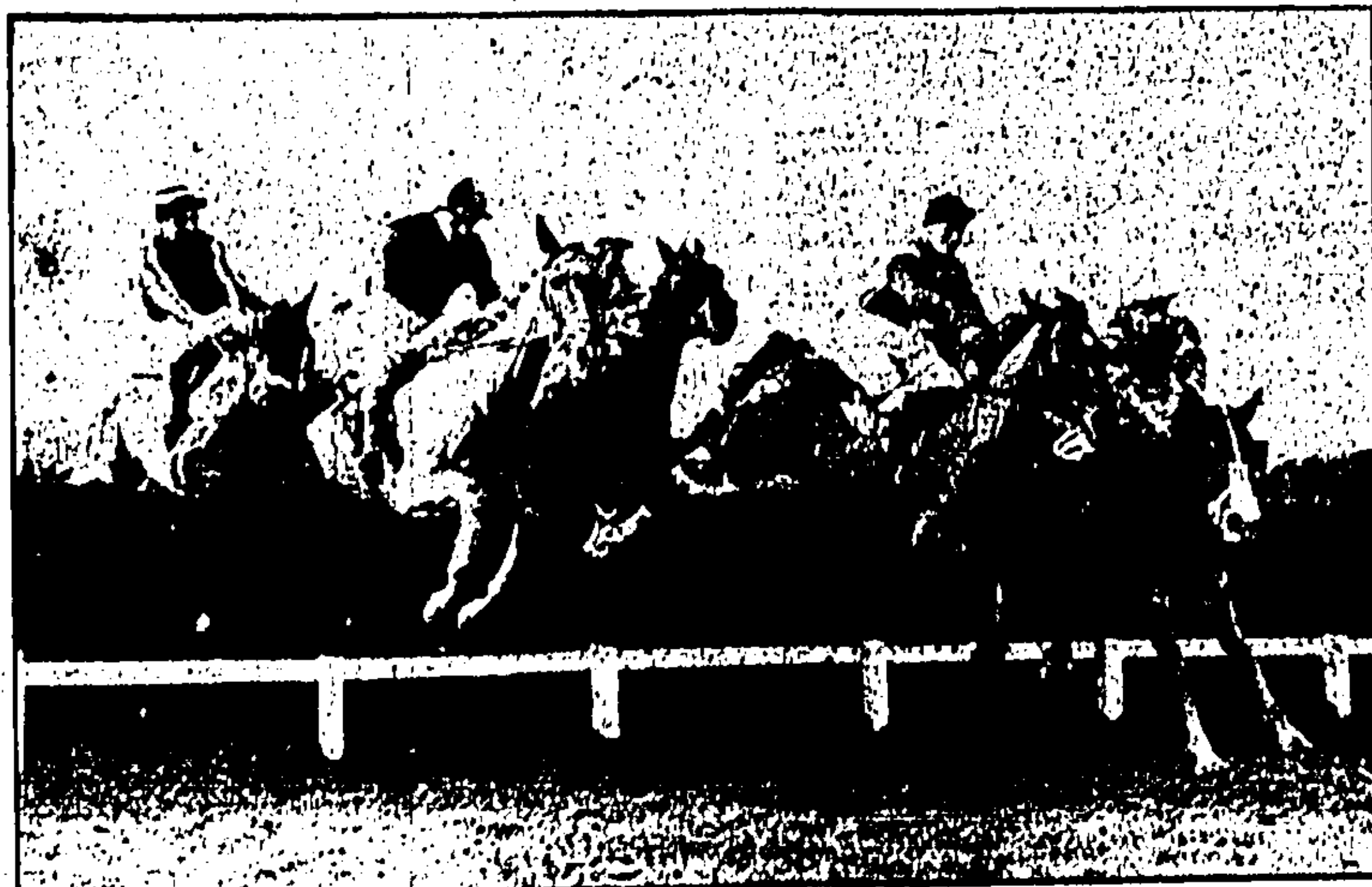
Still, it may turn out all right. Advance publicity could have made Chaucer sound like a cheap hack.

BILINGUAL

Fight your way through the crystal candelabra, clatters of antique furniture, and stacks of books and you find fascinating things happening on the Transcontinental Films set for "M. Ripois and His Nemesis."

Every scene is shot twice in quick succession. The first is in English, the second in French.

AT THE ROYAL WINDSOR RACES



Mr I. Carvalho's Rowley Boy winning the White Hart Selling Handicap Steeplechase at the Second November meeting of the Royal Windsor Races. The picture was taken at the last fence with Rowley Boy on the extreme left and, to his right, Golden Hart, Comedian's Folly and Foxing.

Paulette Goddard Could Help Straighten Out The Record Book Tangle

Says KEN SMITH

The mysterious Miss Paulette Goddard, the girl who has the record books in a tangle, reaches London next month.

Her object—one of the few plain facts about her—is to star in "The Vicious Circle."

I can hardly wait to meet her. I want to ask her some questions—purely in the interest of accuracy—so that we can get the record straight.

According to various reference books the mysterious Miss G. was born in 1905, 1911 and 1914. Miss G's own date: 1915.

She first married Edgar James "When I was 16," says Paulette. The official record of divorce proceedings give the date of the wedding as 1927. When, if Miss Goddard's own birthdate is accurate, would make her 12 years old at the time!

MENTAL CRUELTY

She is the daughter, say the statistics, of Mr J. R. Goddard and Mrs Joseph Levy or Levee. When an American magazine said Mr Levy or Levee was not her father, he sued the paper for 150,000 dollars on the grounds that the statement was mental cruelty.

Her mother's maiden name: Alta M. Goddard, or Alta M. Hatch.

Her early life was spent with her mother's family, the Hatches or Goddards, in (according to the records) Toronto, Montreal, Long Island, Manhattan, Washington, and a convent.

When the great mystery of the thirties: "Is Paulette married to Charles Chaplin or not?" was agitating the film world, she was reported to have married him in London, Mexico, China and aboard his yacht Panacea, somewhere in the Pacific.

What is certain is that she divorced him in Mexico in 1942. She went back there again in 1949 to divorce third husband Burgess Meredith. Divorce costs only £40 in Mexico. Her hair is naturally blonde and brunette.

TAKE YOUR CHOICE

It is also reported that (1) she comes from a society family and was a Ziegfeld girl at 16; (2) she came from a poor family and ran away from home to go on the stage. The word "million" sticks closely to her. Her collection of jewels is "worth a million dollars." Miss G. says she has "a 40,000 dollar diamond necklace, made from my engagement ring."

She also has a collection of paintings "worth a million dollars," and when she and Chaplin separated she received a settlement "worth a million dollars."

Now her name is being linked with that of Erich Maria Remarque, the 55-year-old author of "All Quiet on the Western Front."

In fact, there have been reports that they are already secretly married—in Paris a few months ago.

FOOTNOTE: When she made the film "Diary of a Chambermaid" (the story of a girl who had all sorts of interesting encounters) the director, Jean Renoir, said: "This film would be a documentary of Paulette if she had lived in France in 1885, and she had been a chambermaid."

ART OF KISSING

Do married men make better film lovers than bachelors? "Definitely," says actress Joanne Dru, who recently left London to return to America with husband John Ireland.

"I could name a couple of boys who are known as hot stuff in the fan magazines, but one of them kisses with all the feelings of one of George Dawson's hallbutts, and the kisses of the other would not send a girl as far as the drugstore for an aspirin."

"Men really start to learn the art of kissing when they reach middle age."

John Ireland is 38!

ATOMIC ANTS

Warriors, who struck a rich pay-scene with that gigantic and improbable monster, "The Beast from 20,000 Fathoms," are planning to stick to that type of pseudo-science fiction.

Currently they are shooting a film titled simply, "Them." It is being produced behind "closed doors," but I can tell you that the story deals with ants who grow to enormous sizes as a result of an atomic explosion. No casting news yet—either of humans or insects.

INTERNATIONAL

Britain's Audrey Hepburn is to team with America's Jose Ferrer (born in Puerto Rico) in a play to be directed in New York by Alfred Lunt from a story written by Frenchman Jean Giraudoux. It goes into rehearsal at the end of the month, arrives on Broadway in February.

SIGN PLEASE

Last week 20th-Century Fox brought out the old contract book and signed:

Richard Burton for seven years (one picture a year); Gregory Peck for five years (one picture a year); and Kirk Douglas for three years (one picture a year).

All the films will be shot in CinemaScope. Burton's first will be "Prince of Players," biography of actor Edwin Booth. Kirk Douglas' will be "The Egyptian."

NEW LINES

Century Notebook (small)	\$1.00 each
" (large)	2.00 "
Challenger Receipt books	1.50 "
" Duplicate books	2.50 "
Appointments book	8.00 "
Basildon Airmail Envelopes	6.00 per 100
Churston Deckle Notepaper	56.00 " 1000
" Envelopes	7.50 per box
Bridewell Bond Notepaper	8.50 "
" Envelopes	6.50 "
" Cabinets	6.50 each

On Sale At

SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST, LTD.
HONGKONG KOWLOON

Royal Hongkong Defence Force Orders

Serial No. 50. Orders by Colonel L. T. Rude, CBE, ED, Commandant, Royal Hongkong Defence Force, Dated December 16, 1953.

FORCE ORDERS
Holiday—Headquarters RUKDF will be closed on Friday and Saturday, December 19 and 20, 1953.

FORCE HEADQUARTERS
Artillery Battery—Fd Gunnery Tp. No parade. C & B Tp—Monday, December 21, 1953. Volunteer Centre 11.15 p.m. Exercise. SOC. Dress: Winter uniform.

HONGKONG REGIMENT

Duties—Orderly Officer of the Week—Lt J. A. Kinross. Next for duty—Lt J. A. Kinross. Orderly Sergeant of the Week—Sgt R. C. Chapman. Next for duty—Sgt C. N. Barovsky.

Training—A Coy—Tuesday, December 22, 1953. Pay Parade (Bounties). B Coy—Tuesday, December 22, 1953. Pay Parade (Bounties). C Coy—Tuesday, December 22, 1953. Pay Parade (Bounties). D Coy—Tuesday, December 22, 1953. Pay Parade (Bounties). E Coy—Tuesday, December 22, 1953. Pay Parade (Bounties). F Coy—Tuesday, December 22, 1953. Pay Parade (Bounties). G Coy—Tuesday, December 22, 1953. Pay Parade (Bounties). H Coy—Tuesday, December 22, 1953. Pay Parade (Bounties). I Coy—Tuesday, December 22, 1953. Pay Parade (Bounties). J Coy—Tuesday, December 22, 1953. Pay Parade (Bounties). K Coy—Tuesday, December 22, 1953. Pay Parade (Bounties). L Coy—Tuesday, December 22, 1953. Pay Parade (Bounties). M Coy—Tuesday, December 22, 1953. Pay Parade (Bounties). N Coy—Tuesday, December 22, 1953. Pay Parade (Bounties). O Coy—Tuesday, December 22, 1953. Pay Parade (Bounties). P Coy—Tuesday, December 22, 1953. Pay Parade (Bounties). Q Coy—Tuesday, December 22, 1953. Pay Parade (Bounties). 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BUTTERFIELD and SWIRE

CHINA NAVIGATION CO., LTD.

SAILINGS TO			
"YUNAN"	Shanghai	5 p.m. 18th Dec.	
"SZECHUEN"	Keelung	5 p.m. 19th Dec.	
"ANKING"	Singapore, Penang, Btawan & Palembang	10 a.m. 22nd Dec.	Sails from Custodian Wharf
ARRIVALS FROM			
"SZECHUEN"	Keelung	7 a.m. 18th Dec.	
"PAKHAI"	Shanghai	20th Dec.	

A.O. LINE LTD./C.N. CO., LTD., JOINT SERVICE

SAILINGS TO			
"CHANGTE"	Sydney & Melbourne	Noon 19th Dec.	
ARRIVALS FROM			
"CHANGSHA"	Australia & Manila	6 a.m. 19th Jan.	

BLUE FUNNEL LINE

Scheduled Sailings to Europe via Aden & Port Said			
	Leeds	Sails	Arrives
"CYCLOPS"	Liverpool & Dublin	23rd Dec.	24th Dec.
"AUTOLYCUS"	Gt. On. Rotterdam, Amsterdam, London, Antwerp & Hamburg	20th Dec.	28th Dec.
"PERSEUS"	Marseilles, Liverpool & Glasgow	8th Jan.	9th Jan.
"ANCHISES"	Liverpool & Glasgow	13th Jan.	14th Jan.
"CLYTONEUS"	Liverpool & Dublin	22nd Jan.	23rd Jan.

Scheduled Sailings from Europe			
	Sails	Arrives	
S. "ANCHISES"	Liverpool	20th Dec.	Hong Kong
G. "CLYTONEUS"	do	20th Dec.	do
S. "ASTYANAX"	do	8th Jan.	13th Jan. 1954
G. "PYRRHUS"	do	13th Dec.	13th Jan. 1954
S. "EUMAKUS"	do	25th Jan.	28th Jan. 1954
G. "ASCANIUS"	do	24th Dec.	28th Jan. 1954
S. "AGAFENOR"	do	12th Jan.	7th Feb. 1954

G. Loading Glasgow, before Liverpool. S. Loading Swansea, before Liverpool. Carriers option to proceed via other ports to load & discharge cargo.

DE LA RAMA LINES

ARRIVING FROM U.S. ATLANTIC & PACIFIC COAST PORTS.

	Sails N.Y.	Sails S.F.	Arr. H.K.
"AGAMEMNON"	Sailed	Sailed	30th Dec.
"DONA AURORA"	do	18th Dec.	19th Jan.
"DONA ALICIA"	do	2nd Jan.	31st Jan.
"BATAAN"	14th Dec.	13th Jan.	13th Feb.
"MUNCASTER CASTLE"	14th Jan.	5th Feb.	6th Mar.

SAILING for NEW YORK, via SAN FRANCISCO, LOS ANGELES & CRISTOBAL.

	Leads	Sails
"BENARES"	19th Dec.	20th Dec.
"AJAX"	4th Jan.	5th Jan.
"HAINAN"	19th Jan.	20th Jan.

Accept cargo for Kingston and to Central & South American ports on through bills of lading.

Tathay Pacific Airways Ltd.

Route	Depart Hongkong	Arrives H.K. (on return)
HK/Bangkok/Singapore	(DC-4) 7.00 a.m. Tue. Fri.	7.15 a.m. Wed. Sat.
HK/Manila/D.N. Borneo	Connects at Bangkok with U.N.A. on Tuesdays for Hongkong	
HK/Singapore	(DC-3) 9.00 a.m. Tue. Fri.	8.45 p.m. Wed. Sat.
HK/Manila/Singapore	(DC-4) 11.00 a.m. Wed.	8.00 p.m. Thu.
HK/Manila/Singapore	(DC-3) 10.00 a.m. Wed.	2.40 p.m. Thu.
HK/Bangkok/Singapore	(DC-4) 11.00 a.m. Sat.	4.30 p.m. Sun.

All the above subject to Alteration without notice.

For particulars please apply to:

Butterfield & Swire (Hongkong) Ltd.

1 Connaught Rd. Tel: 3033/8

Branch Office: 50 Connaught Rd. West. Tel: 25875, 32144, 24878

CHINA MAIL

HONGKONG PUBLISHED DAILY (AFTERNOON)

Price, 20 cents per copy. Saturdays 30 cents. Subscription: \$8.00 per month. Postage: China and Japan \$3.00 per month; U.K. and other countries \$7.00 per month. News contributions, always welcome, should be addressed to the Editor, business communications and advertisements to the Secretary. Telephone: 2611 (5 Lines). Kowloon Office: Salisbury Road, Telephone: 3233A.

Classified Advertisements 20 WORDS \$4.00 for 1 DAY PREPAID

ADDITIONAL INSERTIONS \$1.50 PER DAY. 10 cents PER WORD OVER 20. Births, Deaths, Marriages, Personal \$5.00 per insertion not exceeding 25 words, 25 cents each additional word. ALTERNATE INSERTIONS 10% EXTRA. If not prepaid a booking fee of 50 cents is charged.

MUSICAL

RECOMMENDED Christmas LP records. Dupre Station of The Crown for Organ, Frank six pieces, Trois pieces, piano, Russian Choral, available D. Essex, 4A Des Voeux Road, Room 1, and floor, tel. 3018A.

FOR SALE

"VEGETABLE CULTIVATION IN HONGKONG" by G. A. C. Herklotz. Over 100 pages: 80 drawings. Price \$12. Obtainable at "S. C. M. Post."

To ADVERTISERS

SUNDAY POST-HERALD Space for commercial advertising should be booked not later than noon on Wednesdays.

For the SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST and the CHINA MAIL, 48 hours before date of publication.

Special Announcements and Classified Advertisements as usual.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES

CIE DES MESAGERIES MARITIMES m/v "MONKAY"

are hereby notified that their cargo is being discharged into the Hongkong & Kowloon Wharf & Godown Co.'s godown where it will be at consignees risk and subject to the Wharf's terms and conditions of storage and where delivery may be obtained as soon as the goods are landed.

Damaged packages are to be left in the Godown for examination by Consignees and the Company's surveyors. Messrs. Goddard & Douglas at 10 a.m. on Monday, 22nd December, 1953, will be subject to rent.

To comply with the General Bonded Warehouse Regulations, Consignees must have a Revenue Officer in attendance when damaged dutiable goods are examined.

No claims will be admitted after the goods have left the steamer's godown, and all goods remaining undelivered after 22nd December, 1953, will be subject to rent.

All claims against the steamer must be presented to the undersigned on or before 15th January, 1954, or they will not be recognised.

No Fire Insurance will be effected.

CIE DES MESAGERIES MARITIMES

Hongkong, 16th December, 1953.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES

CONSIGNEES PER HARBOR-WILHELMSEN LINE

m.s. "TUNGUS"

are hereby notified that their cargo is being discharged into the Hongkong & Kowloon Wharf & Godown Co.'s godown where it will be at consignees risk and subject to the Wharf's terms and conditions of storage and where delivery may be obtained.

Damaged packages are to be left in the godown for examination by Consignees and the Company's surveyors. Messrs. Goddard & Douglas at 10 a.m. on the 18th December, 1953.

To comply with the General Bonded Warehouse Regulations, consignees must have a Revenue Officer in attendance when damaged dutiable goods are examined.

No claims will be admitted after the goods have left the steamer's godown, and all goods remaining undelivered after the 18th December, 1953, will be subject to rent.

All claims against the steamer must be presented to the undersigned on or before the 28th December, 1953, or they will not be recognised.

No Fire Insurance will be effected.

DODWELL & CO., LTD.

Agents

Hongkong, 15th December, 1953.

MESSAGERIES MARITIMES

P.O. Box 53 Queen's Building Tel: 26651

ROUND TRIP TO JAPAN

by the luxurious

m.v. "LA MARSEILLAISE"

Sailing from Hongkong 29th December 1953

EXHIBITION OF JAPANESE WOOLLEN TEXTILES

will be held at

27, Jervois Street, Hongkong

during 18th-19th December, 1953.

Open daily: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

JAPAN WOOLLEN TEXTILE PROMOTION MISSION.

Agents: BATTEN & CO., LTD.

Room 803, Pedder Bldg., Hongkong.

WARNING

We beg to notify the public that only GENUINE HAIG "Dimple Scot" and "Gold Label" whiskies for sale in the Colony are imported by us, the undersigned, the Sole Distributors for Hongkong, and they bear the following label: "Gande, Price & Co., Ltd. Sole Distributors for Hongkong". Any "Dimple Scot" and "Gold Label" whiskies not bearing this label and sold in Hongkong were not imported by us.

GANDE, PRICE & CO., LTD.

St. George's Building, Hongkong.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES

CONSIGNEES PER NIPPON Yusen Kaisha

m.s. "ETOKU MARU"

are hereby notified that their cargo is being discharged into the Hongkong & Kowloon Wharf & Godown Co.'s godown where it will be at consignees risk and subject to the Wharf's terms and conditions of storage and where delivery may be obtained.

Damaged packages are to be left in the godown for examination by Consignees and the Company's surveyors. Messrs. Goddard & Douglas at 10 a.m. on the 21st December, 1953.

All claims against the steamer must be presented to the undersigned on or before the 28th December, 1953, or they will not be recognised.

No Fire Insurance will be effected.

DODWELL & CO., LTD.

Agents

Hongkong, 16th December, 1953.

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No Fire Insurance will be effected.

DODWELL & CO., LTD.

Agents

Hongkong, 16th December, 1953.

P&O B.I. & A COMPANIES

PENINSULAR & ORIENTAL S.N. CO.

PASSENGER/FREIGHT SERVICE

Outwards	Leave London	Due Hongkong
"CARTHAGE"	12th November	12th January
"CORFU"	18th November	18th January
"CORFU"	18th November	18th January
"CANTON"	18th November	18th January
Via Southampton, Port Said, Aden, Bombay, Colombo, Penang & Singapore		
Homewards	Leave Hongkong	Due London
"CARTHAGE"	10th December	10th January
"CORFU"	16th December	16th January
"CHUAN"	1st February	1st March
"CANTON"	18th February	18th March

Accepting cargo for Singapore, Penang, Colombo, Bombay, Aden, Port Said & London

FREIGHT SERVICE

Outwards	Arrives	For
"TRESILLIAN"	18th January	Strait, Colombo, Aden, Port Said, Marseilles, Genoa, London
"SOCOTRA"	1st January	Strait, Colombo, Aden, Port Said, Marseilles, Genoa, London

With liberty to call at Balawan, Borneo or after Strait Ports and at Bombay if intermediate offers.

Tanks available for cargo of Oil in Bulk. Space for refrigerated cargo. Limited Passenger accommodation.

BRITISH INDIA S.N. CO., LTD.

"SIRIDIANA"	due 4th Jan.	from Japan
	sails 6th Jan.	for Singapore, Penang, Rangoon & Calcutta
"WARORA"	due 7th Jan.	from Japan
	sails 9th Jan.	for Singapore, Rangoon & Calcutta
"ANSUN"	due 10th Jan.	from Japan
	sails 11th Jan.	for Japan

P. & O. B. I. JOINT SERVICE

"UMARIA"	due 21st Dec.	from Karachi, Bombay, Colombo & Rangoon
	sails 23rd Dec.	for Kobe, Hirokita & Yokohama
"OKILA"	due 23rd Dec.	from P. Gulf, Karachi, Bombay, Colombo & Singapore
	sails 24th Dec.	for Nagoya, Kobe & Hirokita
"ORNA"	due 23rd Dec.	from Japan
	sails 24th Dec.	for Singapore, Colombo, Bahrain, Kuwait, Khormashair & P. Gulf

Also other Ports via Bombay

EASTERN & AUSTRALIAN S.S. CO., LTD.

"NELLORE"	due 19th Dec.	from Australia
	sails 20th Dec.	for Nagoya, Yokohama, Kobe, Osaka & Kure
"NELLORE"	due 15th Jan.	from Japan
	sails 17th Jan.	for Sydney, Adelaide & Melbourne

All vessels have liberty to call at any ports on or off the route & the route & sailing are subject to change or amendment with or without notice.

For full particulars apply to:

MACKINNON, MACKENZIE & CO.

OF HONG KONG LTD.

Telephone Nos. 27721-4.

MANDRAKE THE MAGICIAN

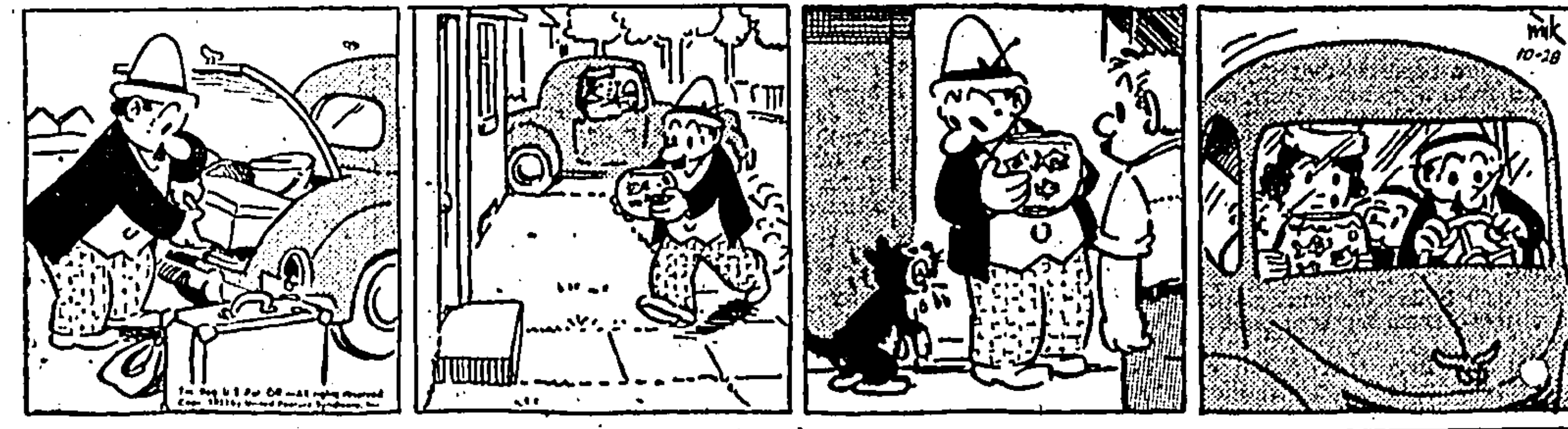
By Lee Falk and Phil Davis



FERD'NAND

Fish Story

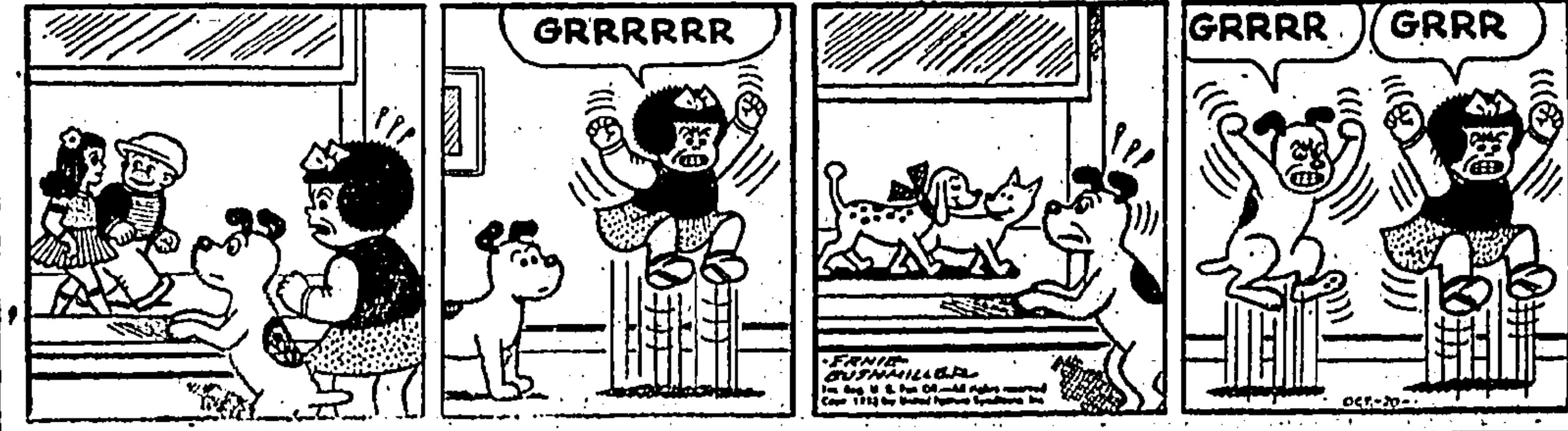
By Mik



NANCY

Unanimous

By Ernie Bushmiller



JOHNNY HAZARD

By Frank Robbins



Mail Notices

The latest times of posting shown below are those for registered correspondence posted at G.P.O. Hongkong. The latest posting times elsewhere which, in general, are earlier than the G.P.O. times, can be ascertained by enquiry at the local office. The latest posting times for registered articles are generally one hour earlier than the times shown below. Particulars regarding parcel mail can be ascertained by enquiry at any post office.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17

By Air: Philippines, North Borneo, 6 p.m.; Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Australia, New Zealand, 6 p.m.; Canada, 0 p.m.; By Surface: Malaya, Ceylon, India, Aden, Middle East, Great Britain & Europe, 6 p.m.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18

By Air: Thailand, Burma, India, Ceylon, Pakistan, Middle East, Africa, Great Britain & Europe, 6 p.m.; By Surface: Malaya, Ceylon, India, Aden, Middle East, Great Britain & Europe, 6 p.m.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19

By Air: Philippines, Guam, Hawaii, U.S.A. & Canada, 8 a.m.; By Surface: Malaya, Ceylon, India, Aden, Middle East, Great Britain & Europe, 6 p.m.

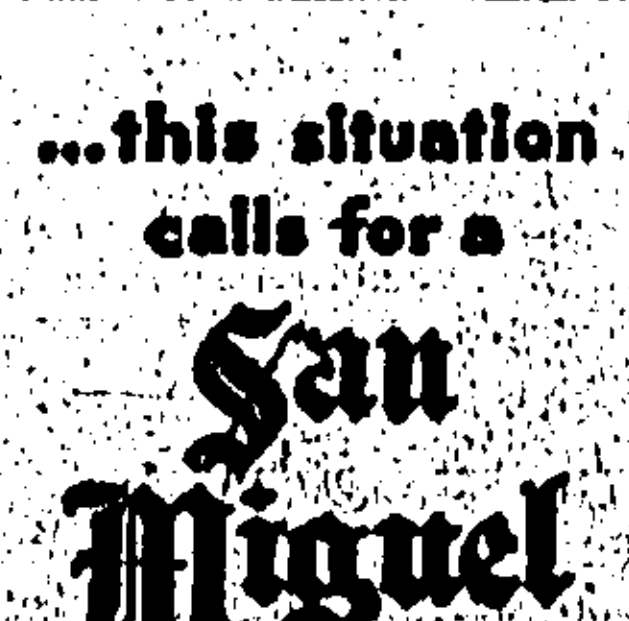
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20

By Air: Philippines, Guam, Hawaii, U.S.A. & Canada, 8 a.m.; By Surface: Malaya, Ceylon, India, Aden, Middle East, Great Britain & Europe, 6 p.m.

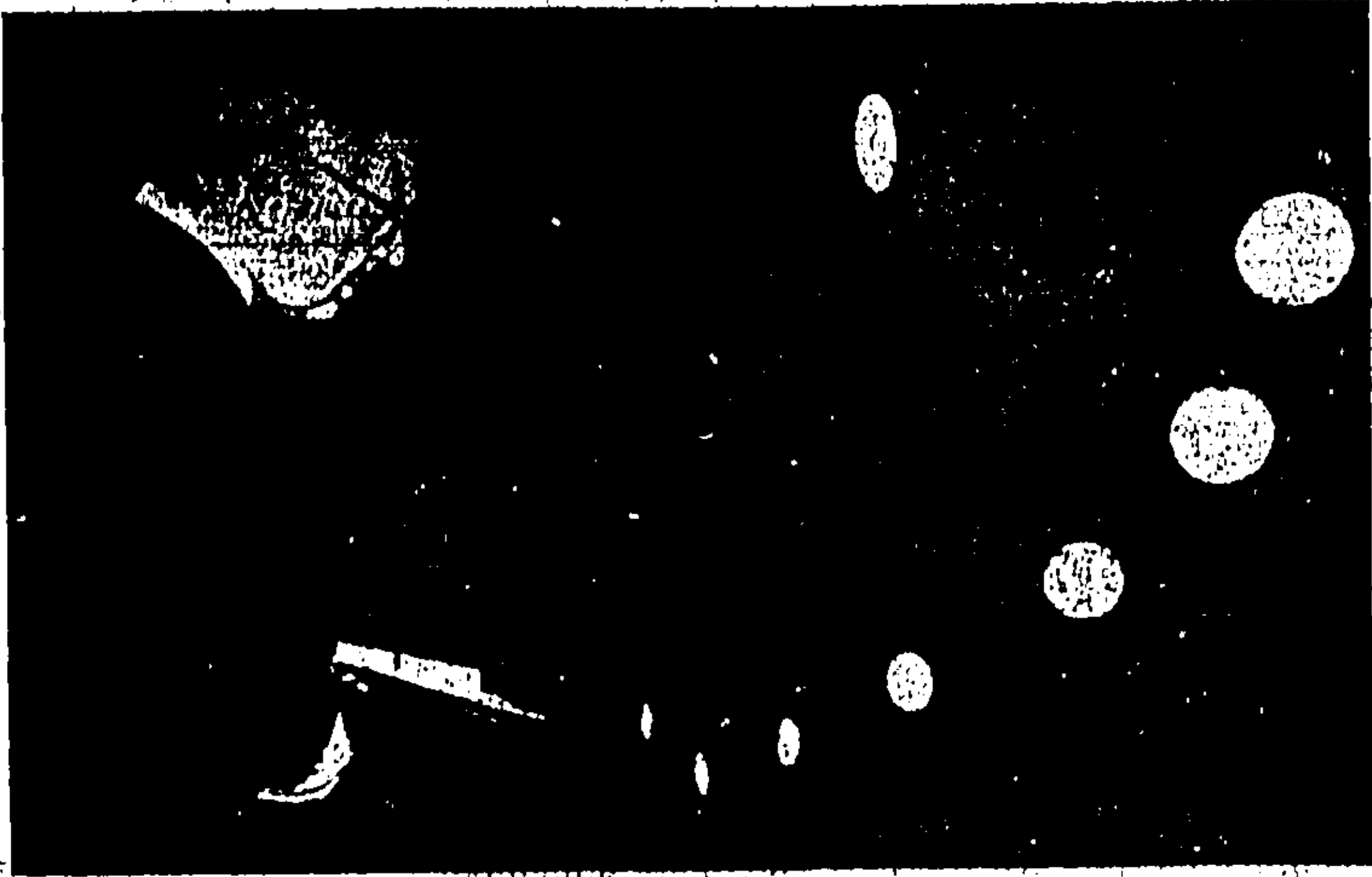
Govt. Survives Censure Motion

London, Dec. 17.

The House of Commons last night rejected, by 301 votes to 273, a Labour motion of censure on the Government for its handling of the British Columbia election in Africa—Rutley.



A BIG PUZZLE FOR A KING



Twelve modern American painters and sculptors are represented at an exhibition opened at Liljevalchs, Stockholm, arranged by the Museum of Modern Art, New York, in co-operation with the National Museum in Stockholm. The exhibition, which is under the patronage of H.R.H. Prince Bertil, gives a representative choice illuminating the important trends in the present art life of the United States. The picture shows His Majesty the King of Sweden looking rather puzzled as he views one of the unusual works. —Central Press.

EQUAL PAY CAMPAIGN GETS A BOOST

By ALAN JOHNSON

Leaders of Britain's 600,000 civil servants are increasing their campaign to secure equal pay for women.

A motion tabled in the House of Commons calls for "further progress without further delay."

The motion is in the names of two Socialist MPs—Mr. Charles Pannell and Mr. Douglas Houghton. More than 40 MPs have signed it.

A leaflet setting out the history of the struggle for equal pay urges "steady pressure" on MPs by letter, by calls at committee rooms, and by lobbying.

COST—£30 MILLION. The cost of full implementation of equal pay in the civil service and public services would be about £30 million, of which £20 million would be chargeable to the central Exchequer.

Union leaders say, however, that if equal pay were introduced on a gradual basis the cost would be much less.

FOOTNOTE—The Government have told civil servants that, although they agree to equal pay in principle, it cannot be introduced immediately because of the nation's economic position. —London Express Service.

Menu Cards

New spoils are being prepared for menu-card collectors.

For the maiden voyage of the P and O liner Arcadia to Australia in February a set of 12 new cards have been painted by Mr. Strom Gould.

The paintings are of Australian birds, including the lyre bird, the scarlet honey-eater, and the rainbow bird. Smaller menus, to be used at lunch-time, will have familiar London scenes on them. —London Express Service.

Aussie Xmas Will Be Best Since War

Melbourne, Dec. 16.

For the nearly 9,000,000 inhabitants of Australia's unbacked continent, this will be a boom Christmas—in terms of what is offered for the money, probably the best since the war.

Almost, in fact, a "Royal" Christmas. For many of the lavish street and big store decorations have been in rehearsal for the festivities of the Queen's visit just over a month into the New Year. The wide selection of locally made and imported gifts offered to shoppers includes many suited or specially designed to commemorate the Royal visit.

Not for more than a decade has the Australian of average means been offered such a great array of gifts, ranging from futuristic British-made "space" toys for Junior to plainly modernistic labour-saving devices for the housewife.

Full page newspaper advertisements have plucked the word "imported" and portrayed perfumes and toilet requisites from France, tools and toys from Germany, a host of lines from Britain, porcelain from Holland, piecegoods from Ireland and Switzerland, embossed leather from Italy, and food delicacies from most parts of the globe.

For Australian industry, this is proving a bumper-festive season. After flourishing behind the virtual protection of the recent import restrictions, it has been spurred into the fully competitive price range by the tight money period of a few months back and has come up this season with the greatest range of secondary industry products known here.

ON CREDIT

For many Australians, it will be a Christmas on credit.

But the traditional barometer of the nation's prosperity, the wool sales, is firmly set fair and on the strength of it com-

merce is out to woo the most reluctant buyer.

Credit has become the rule, with deposits rarely more than nominal. A refrigerator costing upwards of 100 guineas is delivered and installed in the home for 10 guineas down payment. On cheaper lines, there is frequently no deposit.

TRADITIONAL STYLE

Showrooms are lined with glistering cars from America, England and the Continent, side by side with the latest Australian model. Rarely is there a waiting list, the exception being due usually to the customer demanding an unusual colour combination. Here again credit has been easy—40 per cent down and the rest over three years.

Most Australians will spend Christmas in traditional style—in the sun. Sunbathing near the white crash of surf on golden beaches, camping under gum trees by a lazy river, these are favourite ways of spending their summer Christmas.

ENGLISH TOUCH

In most homes, there will be the traditional English touch—the Christmas tree. Taken to the cities by State forestry commissions, sold over the counter in varying sizes by chain stores and suburban greengrocers, firs and pines line a ready sale.

Tubbed, daubed with paint, egg white or soap flakes representing snow, gaily festooned with brightly wrapped presents, tinsel and Christmas stars and balls, they take pride of place in the Christmas decoration of the average Australian home—symbol of the link with Britain, a tradition which will be strengthened when the liner Gothic sails into Sydney Harbour next February, bringing Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh on their visit to Australia. —China Mail Special.

MARKED WHALES

British marine biologists are interested in a small but powerful Norwegian whale-catcher which is due to arrive in the Antarctic ice-pack.

The Thor Dahl is on a whale-marking expedition, arranged by British and Norwegian institutions.

Numbered markers will be fired from a 12-bore shotgun. The markers lodge under the blubber, and a reward is offered for their return when the whale is killed.

Ten pre-war markers were recovered from whales this year. They tell of whale migration and distribution. —London Express Service.

Record Consumption Of United States Electric Power

By Sydney S. Campbell, Reuter's Financial Editor

London, Dec. 16.

Of the series that are so widespread as to provide general indicators of U.S. industry and business, some are quite encouraging: they include the record consumption of electric power and the renewed firmness in paperboard—both very widely used in industry.

Less encouraging are such things as the drop in rail freight-car loadings; the rise in commercial and industrial failures to the highest level since early 1950; last month's drop in cheque clearings, to below the year-ago level, and, since it is so very widely used, the recent price cut in industrial alcohol.

Since mid-September, rail freight-car loadings have been running appreciably below the year-ago figures. Part of the drop may be due to the abnormally mild weather, which has reduced the seasonal demand for many consumer goods, ranging from coal to clothing. If these demands have merely been postponed, there should be corresponding benefit later.

Another part may reflect the secular shift from rail to road (trucks).

Another part again is simply the effect of the year's distortions, when the steel strike reduced car-loadings in the summer and correspondingly en-

hanced them in the autumn, so that this year's comparisons run higher in the summer and automatically run lower in the autumn. But that is not the whole story. In the latest week the loadings were not only 12.3 per cent below the corresponding week last year, they were also 10.7 per cent below the corresponding 1951 week, a significant drop.

CARRIER TRAFFICS

Changes in carrier traffics (both by land and sea) reflect changes in the commodities carried. Car-loadings are feeling the effect of production cuts in steel and steel products, cars and appliances, and of the slack demand for iron ore, coal, export grain and building materials. Movement of these materials is described as very poor, as house-building is falling both seasonally and cyclically.

Seasonally adjusted, new housing starts are about 20 per cent off the peak of last spring. It remains to be seen whether they can be revived by easy mortgage money or any other available device.

Talk of 40-year Federal mortgages implies in the first instance that some officials are going to be tried.

If it encourages the U.S. housing market it would terrify building-society officials in Britain.

It is incongruous for the U.S., which claims the world's speed record in replacing its buildings, to be slow for the record of granting the longest mortgages on them.

In the era which led up to the Great Depression, skyscrapers were built by mortgaging each storey in turn so as to raise the money to pay for the next.

At their recent rate of house-building the Americans would replace their present stock of houses in something less than 40 years, and it is generally desirable that a mortgage on a house should not last longer than the house. Yet Federal housing authorities are actually considering proposals to extend mortgage payments on lower-cost homes over the fearsome 40-year period.

BACK TO NORMAL Some rail officials think that traffics are merely getting back to normal, after three years of abnormally heavy movements.

They should not. In the defence boom, which could not in any case continue, this is a fairly general condition, which Wall Street and most other markets may have already discounted.

Nothing could be better than for the business to consolidate at a normal non-inflationary level of high prosperity, preparatory to a new non-inflationary advance in line with the rapidly rising population and other factors of genuine economic growth.

One may have good hope that it will turn out that way. But remembering what happened in 1949 when the upswing in the U.S. business curves merely paused, it is disconcerting that the change from above to below should be so recent.

Loadings not only from last year but also from 1951—altogether with a forecast that in 1954 they may be lower than in 1953, though not by the recent margin.

This also is a fairly general condition. Throughout almost the whole range of U.S. business, calendar-year 1953 totals to date are well ahead of 1952, and most of the cumulative totals will end the year better than 1954 will. Their start in 1954 was better than last year's, since it is only recently (about mid-September) that current 1953 curves on the down crossed the year-ago curves on the up. But many series start 1954 well below their 1953 levels in 1953, and are likely to stay below into the second half of the year at best, if not for the whole year.

ANACHRONISM An unfortunate technicality is that the rails tend to have, via Wall Street, a disproportionate influence on U.S. business sentiment.

Partly through an anachronism, the railway is of rail in London. Wall Street attracts more attention than the rails pre-

sent importance warrants: they are still very important in the economy, of course, but not so important as they were when they were made into one of the two legs of the Dow Theory, for example.

With the rails plagued by falling traffic, wage demands and labour unrest, it would be difficult for the rails index to "confirm" any bullish signal that might be given by the industrial index.

Typically and not surprisingly, the Wall Street market report of November 25 mentioned that "some rails tended to give up the struggle and leave it to the industrialists to carry the main burden of the recovery."

Perhaps this is not much more than it works in the unfortunate direction. —Reuter.

The Rubber Markets

Singapore, Dec. 16.

The market opened steady on trade enquiry but sagged a little afterwards, and there was a small trade buying at the close.

Future closings: No. 1 rubber per lb. Jan. 67 1/2, Feb. 67 1/2, March 67 1/2, April 67 1/2, May 67 1/2, June 67 1/2, July 67 1/2, Aug. 67 1/2, Sept. 67 1/2, Oct. 67 1/2, Nov. 67 1/2, Dec. 67 1/2.

AMSTERDAM MARKET

Amsterdam, Dec. 16.

The rubber market was quiet. Future closings (in guilders per kilogram): No. 1 rubber Jan. 1.60, Feb. 1.60, March 1.60, April 1.60, May 1.60, June 1.60, July 1.60, Aug. 1.60, Sept. 1.60, Oct. 1.60, Nov. 1.60, Dec. 1.60.

NEW YORK MARKET

New York, Dec. 16.

Rubber futures today closed 25-35 points higher with sales of 13 contracts.

Spot No. 1 RSS were quoted at 20 1/2 cents per lb. Future closings: March 20 1/2, May 20 1/2, July 20 1/2, Sept. 20 1/2, Nov. 20 1/2, Dec. 20 1/2.

LONDON MARKET

London, Dec. 16.

The rubber market was quiet with No. 1 spot RSS quoted at 17 1/2 pence per lb. Prices: No. 1 spot RSS 17 1/2, No. 2 spot RSS 17 1/2, No. 3 spot RSS 17 1/2, No. 4 spot RSS 17 1/2, No. 5 spot RSS 17 1/2, No. 6 spot RSS 17 1/2, No. 7 spot RSS 17 1/2, No. 8 spot RSS 17 1/2, No. 9 spot RSS 17 1/2, No. 10 spot RSS 17 1/2.

NEW YORK

New York, Dec. 16.

World No. 4 sugar futures today closed 1-4 points lower with sales of 57 contracts.

Domestic No. 4 sugar futures closed 2 points higher with sales of 214 contracts.

World futures eased on liquidation as traders awaited developments at the impending meeting of the International Sugar Council at London on Dec. 16.

Domestic futures ruled steady in company with the raw market.

Contract No. 4 (world) Jan. 12 1/2, Feb. 12 1/2, March 12 1/2, April 12 1/2, May 12 1/2, June 12 1/2, July 12 1/2, Aug. 12 1/2, Sept. 12 1/2, Oct. 12 1/2, Nov. 12 1/2, Dec. 12 1/2.

Contract No. 5 (world) Jan. 12 1/2, Feb. 12 1/2, March 12 1/2, April 12 1/2, May 12 1/2, June 12 1/2, July 12 1/2, Aug. 12 1/2, Sept. 12 1/2, Oct. 12 1/2, Nov. 12 1/2, Dec. 12 1/2.

Contract No. 6 (world) Jan. 12 1/2, Feb. 12 1/2, March 12 1/2, April 12 1/2, May 12 1/2, June 12 1/2, July 12 1/2, Aug. 12 1/2, Sept. 12 1/2, Oct. 12 1/2, Nov. 12 1/2, Dec. 12 1/2.

Contract No. 7 (world) Jan. 12 1/2, Feb. 12 1/2, March 12 1/2, April 12 1/2, May 12 1/2, June 12 1/2, July 12 1/2, Aug. 12 1/2, Sept. 12 1/2, Oct. 12 1/2, Nov. 12 1/2, Dec. 12 1/2.

Contract No. 8 (world) Jan. 12 1/2, Feb. 12 1/2, March 12 1/2, April 12 1/2, May 12 1/2, June 12 1/2, July 12 1/2, Aug. 12 1/2, Sept. 12 1/2, Oct. 12 1/2, Nov. 12 1/2, Dec. 12 1/2.

Contract No. 9 (world) Jan. 12 1/2, Feb. 12 1/2, March 12 1/2, April 12 1/2, May 12 1/2, June 12 1/2, July 12 1/2, Aug. 12 1/2, Sept. 12 1/2, Oct. 12 1/2, Nov. 12 1/2, Dec. 12 1/2.

Contract No. 10 (world) Jan. 12 1/2, Feb. 12 1/2, March 12 1/2, April 12 1/2, May 12 1/2, June 12 1/2, July 12 1/2, Aug. 12 1/2, Sept. 12 1/2, Oct. 12 1/2, Nov. 12 1/2, Dec. 12 1/2.

German Sterling Payments

Frankfurt, Dec. 16.

The Bank Deutscher Laender has announced that German importers were no longer required to ask for the Bank's special permission to make sterling payments through London to recipients in the transferable account area, provided that the countries of origin of the goods for which payment had to be made were within the transferable account of sterling area.

The Bank said this regulation did not apply to payments for gold in bars, gold coins and semi-finished and finished gold products. —Reuter.

Excellent Wheat Prospects

Washington, Dec. 16. Reduced wheat prospects of Argentina, contrasted with the increase for the crops of North America, Europe and Australia today marked the Agriculture Department's revision of its September world bread grain forecast for 1953-54.

The Department confirmed that the world's wheat and rye production appeared likely to reach a near-record 235,000,000 short tons. That would be in between the record set last year and the previous 1930-39 high.

The wheat forecast was boosted by 20,000,000 bushels over the September prediction. The revised forecast is for 7,045,000,000 bushels. Wheat represents some 76 per cent of the anticipated world grain production, rye, 25 per cent.

South America is expected to harvest a 315,000,000 bushel wheat crop, most of it in Argentina where the forecast is for 225,000,000 bushels.

Argentina's crop, the Department said, is "less than earlier-season prospects and about 20 per cent below the 1952 harvest."

A lack of rain during much of the growing season, the department said, "adversely affected the wheat acreage and yields." It was expected to be "those of a year ago."

The Argentine rye crop will be above average but below the record 1952 harvest because rye acreage was heavily paged during the winter.

North America's wheat production is calculated at 1,800,000,000 bushels, about 10 per cent below 1952.

The wheat forecast for Europe was boosted to 1,700,000,000 bushels and that of Asia to 1,610,000,000 bushels. Most Near East countries increased wheat harvests. Turkey set new records with both a 275,000,000 bushel wheat crop and a 200,000,000 bushel rye crop.

Africa's wheat crop is estimated at 100,000,000 bushels, with the bulk of the increase over 1952 being in Egypt and French Morocco.

Australia predicted to produce 170,000,000 bushels of wheat. The Soviet Union has made no official statement of its grain expectation but has admitted "large harvest losses." The Department said. —United Press.

World Cotton Markets

New York, Dec. 16. Cotton future, today rested on firmer ground for the third session in a row, although overall activity was on the quiet side.

Gains ranged up to near \$1 a bale before the market ran into enough opposition in the form of realizing and hedge selling to curb the upturn.

Background factors affecting market sentiment included producer approval of acreage-marketing controls for the next crop and the anticipation of heavy importations under the government loan programme.

However, aggressive buying interest cooled later with knowledge that the Administration had indicated it will ask for a \$300,000,000 increase in the acreage allotments when Congress convenes in January.

Fullness in the textile market was another handicap. Unless good buyers stop-up commitments very soon, cotton traders were uneasy lest the mills begin to extend present curtailed operations.

The Census Bureau reported domestic consumption of raw cotton in November at 684,000 bales. The figure was slightly below expectations, and compared with 762,987 bales consumed in November last year. —United Press.

NEW YORK

New York, Dec. 16.

Closing Prices Dec. 15 Dec. 16 Spot 22.40 22.40 March 22.40 22.40 May 22.40 22.40 July 22.40 22.40 Sept. 22.40 22.40 Nov. 22.40 22.40 Dec. 22.40 22.40

NEW ORLEANS

New Orleans, Dec. 16.

Closing Prices Dec. 15 Dec. 16 Spot 22.40 22.40 March 22.40 22.40 May 22.40 22.40 July 22.40 22.40 Sept. 22.40 22.40 Nov. 22.40 22.40 Dec. 22.40 22.40

Exchange Rates

Business was done in the local market at the following rates: U.S. dollar (per £1) 0.70 Sterling rate (per £1) 1.40 Australian dollar (per £1) 0.70 Canadian dollar (per £1) 0.70 Hong Kong dollar (per £1) 0.70 Indian rupee (per £1) 0.70 Japanese yen (per £1) 0.70 Swiss franc (per £1) 0.70

PENINSULAR & ORIENTAL

STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY

R.M.S. "CARTHAGE"

NOTICE TO PASSENGERS

SAILS: Friday the 18th December at 12.00 noon for the UNITED KINGDOM via Straits, Colombo, Bombay, Aden and Port Said.

BAGGAGE: Passengers are requested to send ALL baggage to the Hongkong & Kowloon Wharf Co's Godown at No. 2 Gate, CANTON ROAD ENTRANCE, by NOON on Thursday, 17th December, 1953.

SPECIAL NOTE: With the exception of hand packages carried by passengers themselves, ALL BAGGAGE must pass through the Wharf Co's Godown for loading on board by ship's slings only. BAGGAGE COOLIES WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO ENTER THE WHARF.

EMBARKATION: Passengers should embark between 9.30 and 11.00 a.m. on Friday, 18th December.

CROSSLEY BROTHERS LTD.
MARINE, STATIONARY & AUXILIARY
MARINE DIESEL ENGINES.

ENGINEERING EQUIPMENT CO., LTD.
H.K. & Shanghai Bank Bldg. Tel. 27789

CHINA MAIL

Established 1845

Page 10

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1953.

JOHN CLARKE'S CASEBOOK

A Letter To George

OBEYED to the orders of her husband, George's wife brought the letter to the Clerk's court. It seemed to do so, for the whole future for herself, her husband and their five children seemed to her to depend upon that letter being kept safe.

If she should lose it on the way to court, leave her handbag on the bus, have it snatched from her.

She hardly dared to think of what might happen to the future then.

At the court, the wife stood in the public gallery. She watched without much interest while Mr. Frank Powell, the magistrate, disposed of the early cases in his list.

'OBLIGING'

WHEN they called out the name of George, her husband, she did not, as some women do, so placed, cry out a little, or close her eyes. She had been through this before. George had been in prison twice.

Court procedure was not new to George's wife, but never in the past had so much seemed to depend on what happened in court, as now.

George, with two other men, pleaded guilty to stealing 10cwt. of coal that they should have delivered, as part of a five-ton load, to an East End school.

A London County Council official had caught them, telling the 10cwt. for £4 to a "private" customer, en route to the East End school.

"Obliging" the customer, as a policeman put it, "there is often such laxity where big orders, such as five tons, are concerned," he reported.

"FOOLISH? ... WICKED" "THIS man," said the police officer, indicating George, "is 36 years old. There are three previous convictions. All three were for stealing and all the thefts were from the railways."

Once it had been put in, another time two cars of coal, another time two cars of iron and the third time scrap brass worth £1,000.

"He had a vast number of jobs," the officer went on, "and now he says he is contemplating emigration. His wife is here, he says, and has some letter about this emigration."

"Please, sir, that's right, sir," said George. "I know this was very foolish."

"Wicked, not foolish," the magistrate corrected.

"I'll GO STRAIGHT" GEORGE brushed the correction aside. "Look, sir," he said, "a week or two ago I had a letter about this emigration,

from the government concerned, sir, offering me a job. We're definitely going, sir, if you give me a chance and be lenient."

"I've got to think of the people you steal from."

"I definitely meant to go straight, then some foolishness come over me," George said, a desperation now in his voice.

"It isn't foolishness, it's wickedness," the magistrate reminded him.

"Oh right, sir, but think of my five children."

"Why should I? You don't," Mr. Powell said.

"My wife can show you the letter, sir."

George's wife, pale and tense now the future was actually in the balance, lifted up her handbag. The magistrate seemed not to want to see the letter from the Dominion government.

THE NEW LIFE

"PAY £10 or go to prison for a month," said the magistrate, "and you can consider yourself lucky. I'm only dealing with you that way because you have a good work record with your firm, and so that you can take passage overseas. I only hope that when you get there, you will give up crime."

He discharged conditionally one of George's mates, and lined the other for their varying parts in the business.

Presently, George joined his wife outside the court. I saw him say something to her that caused her to look once again into her handbag. She nodded, and then the two crept off, hurrying, as if there was no time to be lost, as if the new life for them and their children was waiting just around the corner of the street.

MAN LIVES IN BOTTLE

(Continued from Page 1)

More than 300 witnesses, including police officials, saw Rayo's "bottling" a year ago, when the bottle was lowered over him and his bottom sealed with molten glass.

Rayo said the object of his experiment was scientific—to test the effect of living on vitamin and glucose tablets and to experiment in "artificially induced hibernation."

The bottle was air conditioned and provided with an opening through which food, drink and air could be admitted and waste expelled. It could be tipped over its side so that Rayo could sleep comfortably on an air-filled mattress.

The three-foot poisonous Syrian snake has been his constant companion for the last three years.—China Mail Special.

Local Printing Press Annual Meeting

Increase In Dividend

The Board of Directors recommended an increase of 50 cents, bringing the dividend for the year to \$2.50 free of tax, at the annual general meeting of the Local Printing Press, Ltd., held this morning.

At a subsequent extraordinary general meeting approval was given to a resolution increasing the issued capital of the company by the issue of bonus shares on a one to one basis.

Addressing the meeting the Chairman, Mr. B. W. Bradbury, said:

From the accounts before you for the financial year ending June 1953 you will note, that although the figures are still good they are not quite so good as those of the previous year. This is due to a decrease in business turnover and is in keeping with business conditions in the Colony generally.

The net profit, including property rentals is \$985,602.24; which together with \$99,813.55 carried forward from last year leaves \$1,071,705.79 available for appropriation.

The Dollar Directory continues to make headway, and is now, not only a valuable part of our business, but is proving very useful to the community.

At our last Annual Meeting I referred to our purchase of the "Caxton House" site at No. 1 Duddell Street. I now have pleasure in announcing that the new building on this site was completed by June 1st last, and is now fully occupied; this will of course add considerably to our revenue in future and has made a valuable contribution to the problem of office accommodation in the town centre.

ASSET TO COLONY

Our architects Messrs Leigh & Orange and contractors Messrs Siu Kin & Co., are to be congratulated on a good job well done; for we believe "Caxton House" to be a fine building and an asset to the Colony.

Turning to the Balance Sheet, you will notice that Fixed Assets show an increase in value of \$701,107.09, due chiefly to the new property already mentioned.

Following this meeting there will be held an Extraordinary General Meeting at which your Directors intend to propose increasing the issued Capital of our Company by issuing a bonus issue of shares on a one to one basis, utilising most of our reserves for this purpose. In the opinion of your Directors this will bring the issued Capital of the Company more into keeping with the present assets.

Our subsidiary, "Older Printing Ltd.", has shared somewhat the general trade depression and together with a few extraordinary expenditures of a non-recurring nature shows rather disappointing results for 1952.

We have made provision for taxation for 1954/5 and depreciated the book value of our plant and machinery until the present figure of \$469,733.45 is a very conservative one.

Your Directors feel justified in recommending a small increase in Dividend of 50 cents per share, making \$2.50 per share, free of tax for the year.

On behalf of Shareholders and the Board I would like to express our thanks to the Managing Director and his Staff for the successful results of the year's working and I am sure that the usual provision for a Bonus to Staff will have your warm support.

Mr. D. Benson, secretary of the statement of accounts and report which was unanimously approved by the meeting.

Mr. B. W. Bradbury was re-elected Chairman of the Board of Directors, while Messrs. Paul Marwick, Mitchell and Company were re-elected auditors.

Woman Knocked Down By Car

A middle-aged Chinese woman was knocked down by a Buick driven by a Chinese in Nathan Road about 50 yards from Waterloo Road just after 9 o'clock this morning.

The woman appeared to have walked out from behind a bus. She was sent to hospital, but her injuries were not regarded as serious.

SIDE GLANCES By Galbraith



"I'd kind of like to make this trip in one of those jet planes that goes 700 miles an hour!"

Detectives Sued For Alleged Wrongful Arrest

A man who was arrested on the pavement outside China Building in Queen's Road Central, but who was subsequently released the same day brought a suit for damages against the two arresting detectives before Judge J. Reynolds at the Victoria District Court this morning.

The plaintiff, Tsung Ying-piu, of 45 Bonham Strand, ground floor, alleged that while he was gazing at a window display, he felt someone slip his car from behind. Turning round he saw the two detectives who asked him what he was doing.

Mak Hak-shing and Chan Siu, both detective Police constables attached to Central Police Station, are jointly being sued for \$5,000 and costs for alleged wrongful arrest and false imprisonment.

Mr. R. W. S. Winter, instructed by Messrs Ford, Kwai and Company, is representing the plaintiff. Mr. D. F. O'Reilly Mayne, Crown Counsel, appeared on behalf of the defendants, assisted by Det.-Inspector W. E. Thomas. The plaintiff said in evidence that he was a Hongkong born and had always lived here. At one time he had been a member of the Police Reserve. At the moment, he was not employed by anyone, but he owned a house at 406 Yee Euk Street, Shamshuipo. The title deeds were produced.

On August 22, a Saturday afternoon, he was standing outside the Kin Sing Department Store in China Building, plaintiff went on. That was about 4.20 p.m. He was looking at the window display, when he felt someone slip his left ear. Turning round he saw the two defendants, who were in civilian clothes.

"DETECTIVES' QUESTIONS" One of them asked what he was doing, and he said he was looking at the things on display. Asked his occupation, he told them that at the moment, he had no fixed occupation, but that he could carry on fairly well.

One of the detectives, it was alleged, told him: "By what means do you earn your living? Picking pockets?" Plaintiff said he told them, "No." He said further that he owned property in respect of which he collected rent. One of his questioners then used foul language, and asked him if he thought "he was Sir Robert Ho Tung."

Plaintiff went on to say that he was told he was a suspected returned banished. He denied this and offered to bring the detectives to his brother, who was a doctor, practicing at Pedder Building. He took the two to Pedder Building.

While waiting for the elevator, he asked the detectives what their names were. They did not reply. He told them: "The Hongkong Police should not do this sort of thing. You are not big shots." One of the two appeared to become furious, and said something in English. The other whipped out a pair of handcuffs and gave it to the first detective, who handcuffed him.

Tsung said further that he told the two there was no need to use the handcuffs if they wanted to bring him to the Police Station. One of the detectives remarked that he had never seen such a "snobbish fellow" as him (plaintiff) before.

He was then taken to the Central Police Station, where one of his custodians spoke to the Inspector On Duty in English, and the latter replied: "All right." His handcuffs were removed, and he was fingerprinted. He was also searched, and his personal belongings kept in a basket.

"HIS INTENTION" Plaintiff said he asked for permission to telephone his brother, and this was allowed. He was then placed in the detention cell for about 50 minutes, after which he was brought once more into the charge room. His personal belongings were returned to him, the fingerprint document was destroyed, and he was allowed to go free. That was about 6.10 p.m.

Replying to a question by Mr. Winter, Tsung said he had been standing outside the shop window in Queen's Road, when he had another brother working for the solicitors' firm of Ford, Kwai and Company. Replying to a suggestion that his purpose in asking for the names of the two detectives in Pedder Building was to use them as evidence in legal proceedings, he said that his intention at the time was to lodge a complaint against them.

He admitted that the original claim was for \$15,000, but explained that, as he understood that an O. J. case usually lasted over one year, he decided to arrange for the case to be heard in the District Court. He agreed he had not lost "one penny", as far as money was concerned.

Crown Counsel put it to plaintiff that he well knew that the vicinity of the place where he was escorted by the defendants was a neighbourhood for pickpockets to operate. Plaintiff said he did not know.

At this juncture, Mr. Mayne asked the Court interpreter to impress on the plaintiff the fact that there was no suggestion whatsoever that the plaintiff had any improper intentions when he stood by the window display.

Further questioned, he denied that half the time, he was looking at the people that came in and out of the shop; or that he stood there for about 15 minutes altogether.

Hearing is proceeding.

KING CASE: MORE SUBMISSIONS BY PROSECUTION

The Hon. Leo d'Almada, QC, leading Counsel for the Prosecution in the course of his reply to the Defence submission of no case to answer in the King case before Mr. Poon Yan-hoi, submitted this morning that Mr. M. W. H. Seymour, a member of George Falconer and Co., Ltd. was fully entitled to lay information or complaint in the present case.

If it was argued that Seymour did not purport to act on behalf of Falconer's, he certainly purposed to do this on behalf of the Crown — because he (Seymour) thought this was a Crown prosecution — but the position was not affected, because there was an informant before the Court and information laid before it, and therefore the proceedings were not one whit affected, Counsel further submitted.

The defendant, James Joseph Osborne King, merchant, is alleged to have fraudulently taken \$6,305.94 for the use of his wife from George Falconer and Co., Ltd. while a Director of that firm in November, 1950.

He is represented by Mr. M. A. da Silva.

Appearing for the Prosecution are the Hon. Leo d'Almada, QC, and Mr. A. J. Clifford, both instructed by Hastings and Company.

Continuing his argument in reply to Defence submission of no case to answer, Mr. d'Almada quoted from Payley, and said that the case referred to in the authority was authority for the proposition that if proceedings were instituted by someone who purported to act with the authority of a corporation or a company and in fact he had not so acted, nonetheless the proceedings were in no way affected.

The essence of the matter was that there was a complainant or an informant before the court and the proceedings therefore were not invalidated, nor jurisdiction in any way touched, he submitted. He said that a corporation as well as a company could lay information or complaint.

"THE PROPER TIME" Counsel said that if a defendant wished to object to any defect or deficiency in regard to the information or complaint, the proper time to do so was when he appeared before the court, and if he found it was lacking or deficient or otherwise defective, he could take an objection and a magistrate in those circumstances might grant to the defendant an adjournment. If that the defendant was prejudiced by such defect. That was a point with which Counsel said he would deal later at greater length.

Mr. d'Almada said that Seymour, being a member of Falconer's, was fully entitled to lay information or complaint in the present case. Counsel said that if it was argued that Seymour did not in this case purport to act on behalf of Falconer's, he certainly purposed to do this on behalf of the Crown — because he (Seymour) thought this was a Crown prosecution — but the position was not affected, because there was an informant before the Court and information laid before it, and therefore the present proceedings were not "one whit" affected.

"CLEAR FOUNDATION" After quoting further cases, Mr. d'Almada said that the clear foundation of these cases was that no matter whether a person who lay information purposed to act on behalf of someone else when in fact he had no authority to do so, nonetheless the proceedings were not at all affected, they were not a reason for dismissing the charge, the jurisdiction was not affected and the case must proceed and be dealt with on the merits.

Counsel said that in three of the cases cited by him, there was Counsel who appeared on behalf and on the instructions of the Borough Council concerned. He said there was no authority for the Borough Council to institute the proceedings in the way of laying information, or otherwise, in the present case, he submitted that the Court of Appeal was not entitled to overrule what the solicitor or Counsel in question had no right of audience.

Mr. d'Almada said that the friend had submitted that the Court below in each instance was the Court of Appeal was not entitled to overrule what the solicitor or Counsel in question had no right of audience.

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Illegal Butter Factory

WOMAN FINED \$5,000

Mr. George She and Mrs. R. Loseby, sitting in the Justices of Peace Court at Central yesterday imposed a total of \$5,000 in fines against Wong Wah-hei, a Chinese woman of 95 Wongsing Road, on charges that she illegally used her basement at Wongsing Road on November 10 as a food factory, making what purported to be butter, and making a false statement on the butter labels. She was given 14 days to pay.

Cautions were issued on alternative charges of adulterating butter with margarine.

Health Inspector Lul Chiu-sun prosecuted Mr. K. Y. Yung represented the defendant, pleading guilty on her behalf and making a mitigating statement.

The story of Wong's apprehension by the Urban Council Health Officers, for which they received a commendation in Court, was told by Inspector Lul.

On November 10, Inspector Lul said, Health Inspector Leung had made a routine inspection and penetrated to the basement of 95 Wongsing Road, where he found the illegal butter factory. He immediately made a report to Dr. Cheung (Health Officer, Hongkong), to Senior Health Inspector Yung, and to Inspector Lul, Sampling and Prosecutions Officer.

"40% MARGARINE" The four of them returned to the basement and took samples, seized apparatus and sealed refrigerators in the basement and second floor which contained genuine and adulterated butter. They also obtained from Wong a list of the retailers which she had been supplying.

When the samples of the butter had been analysed it was found that the brands that Wong had been selling contained 40% of margarine. Many labels were found in the basement, used labels of "Cow and Girl" brand margarine and "Blue Bird" brand butter and unused ones with "Pasteurised Range Brand Pure Creamery Butter" and "Pasteurised Bull Brand Pure Creamery Butter" printed on them.

"MITIGATION PLEA" In his plea of mitigation, Mr. Yung said that the butter could not be prejudicial to health, being only a mixture of two recognised brands of butter and margarine and that the factory had not been operating for a very long time.

Inspector Lul said that he wished to press the case for the reason that offences of this sort were very difficult to detect; that the condition of the basement in which the canistering was carried out was insanitary, and that in selling the adulterated butter Wong was cheating the public, since she had mixed some butter, which cost \$3.20 per lb and margarine which cost only \$1.30 per lb and sold it at the price of butter. He also said that judging by the number of labels found the offence must have been going on for at least six months.

Mr. She, passing sentence, said that his colleague (Mrs. Loseby) had wished to send the defendant to prison, but on hearing Mr. Yung's plea it was decided not to do that. All the same, Mr. She continued, the offence was a serious one, particularly considering the potential-size of the market for illegal butter.

"What's His Line?" Solution FIG BREAKER London Express Service

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